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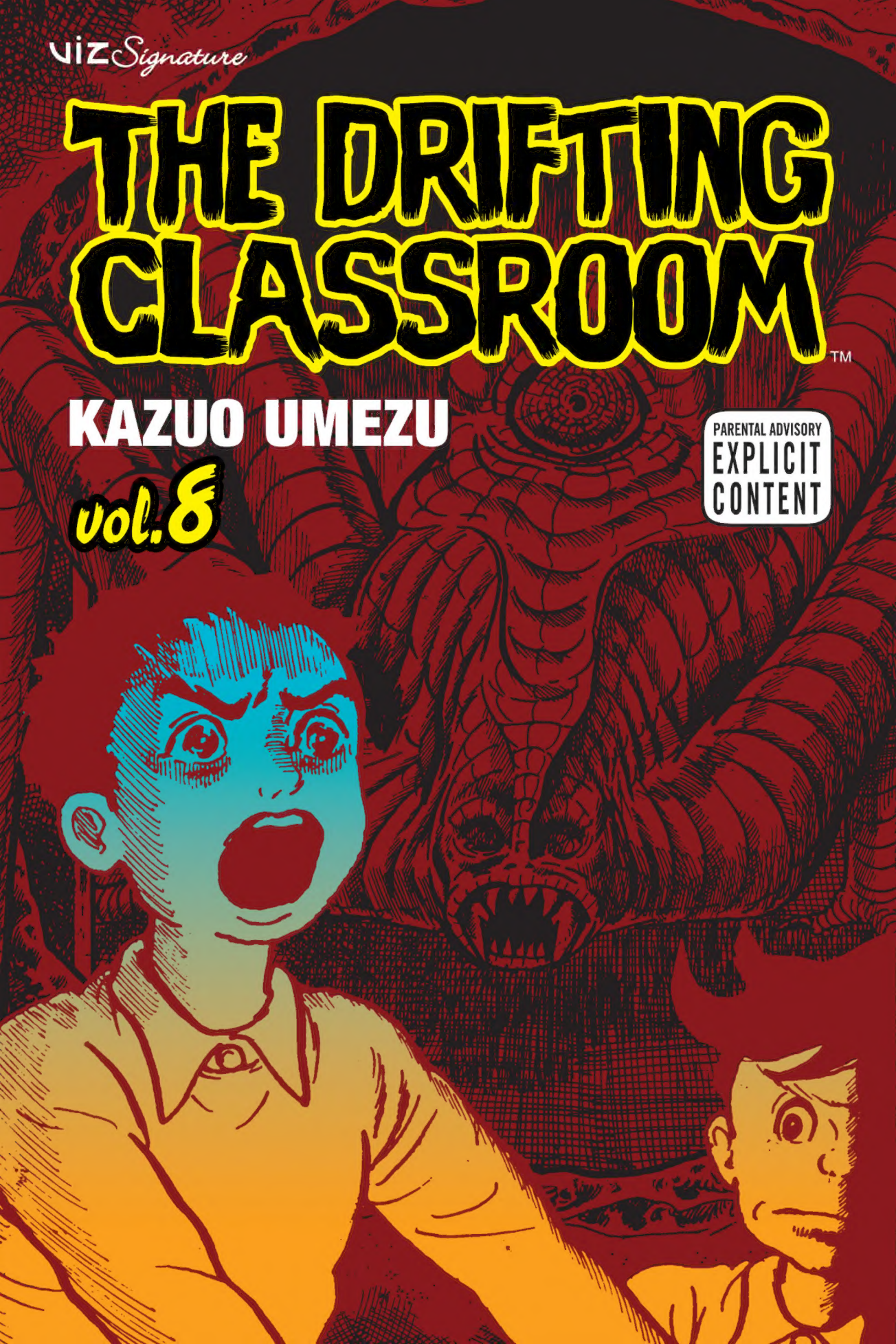
THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM™

KAZUO UMEZU

vol. 8

PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in 1936, Kazuo Umezu is Japan's most respected and influential horror manga artist. Umezu began his artistic career at the age of 18, creating stories for both *shôjo* (girls) and *shonen* (boys) manga magazines, and working in an amazingly diverse range of genres. In Japan he is most famous for the gag manga *Makoto-chan* (1971), but his most ambitious works are horror and science fiction, including *The Drifting Classroom* (1972-1974), *My Name is Shingo* (1982-1986), *The Left Hand of God, the Right Hand of the Devil* (1986-1989) and *Fourteen* (1990-1995). His works have been adapted into anime and live-action films.

THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM
Vol. 8

STORY AND ART BY KAZUO UMEZU

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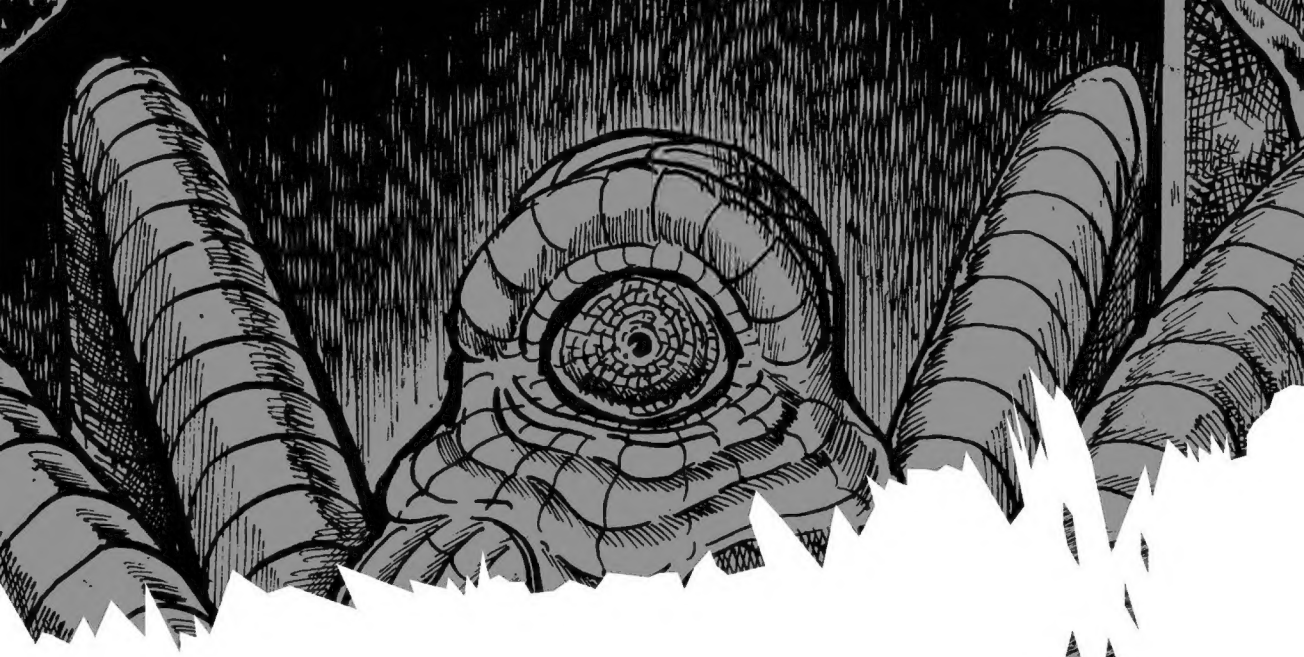

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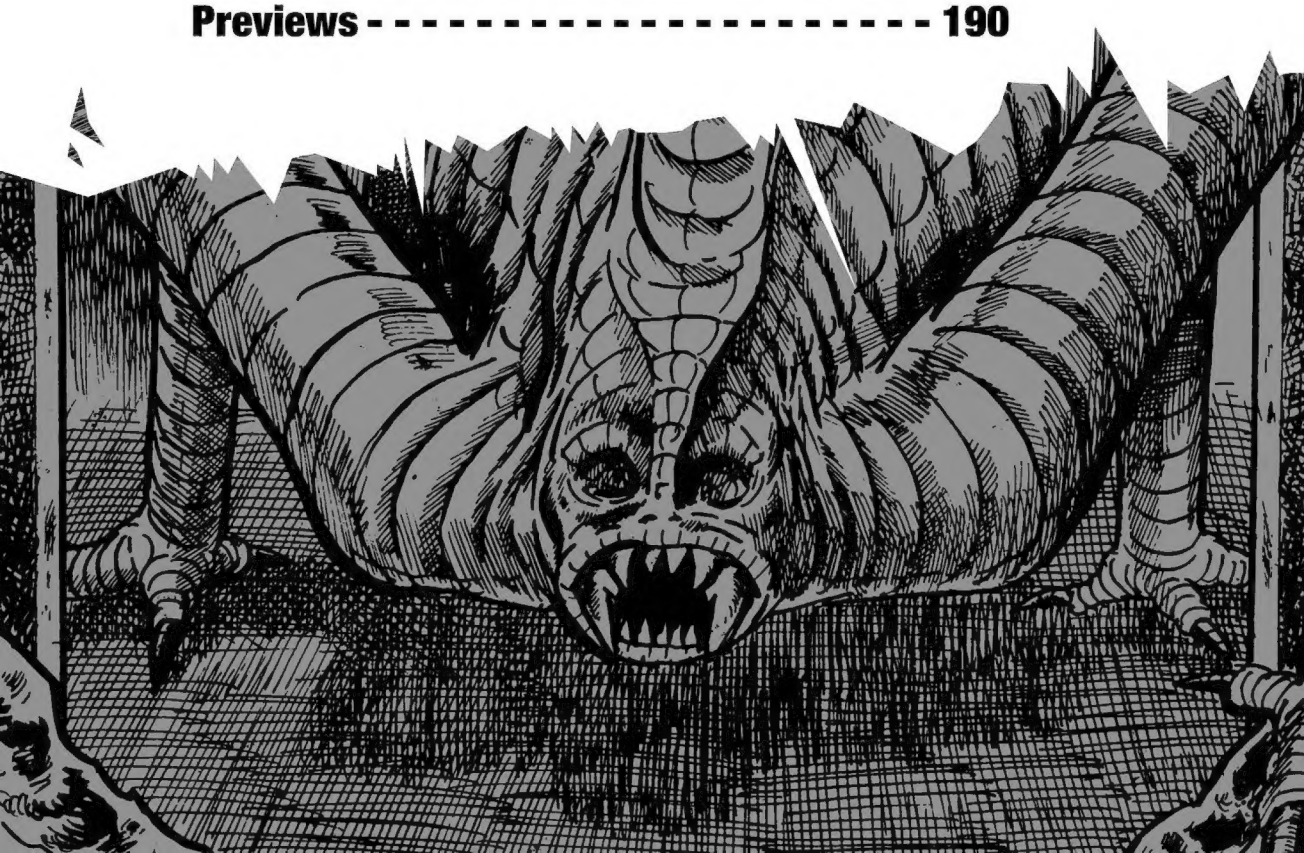
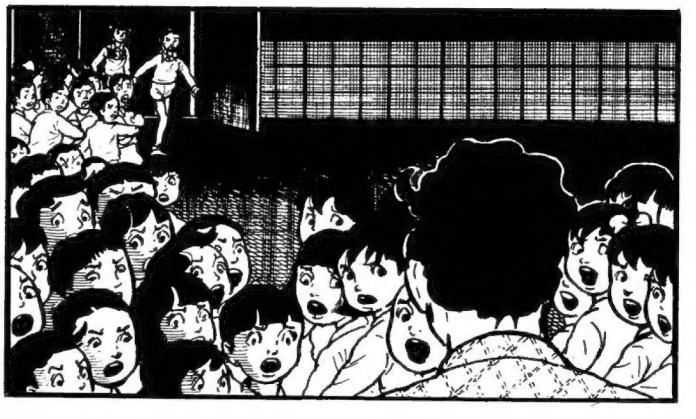
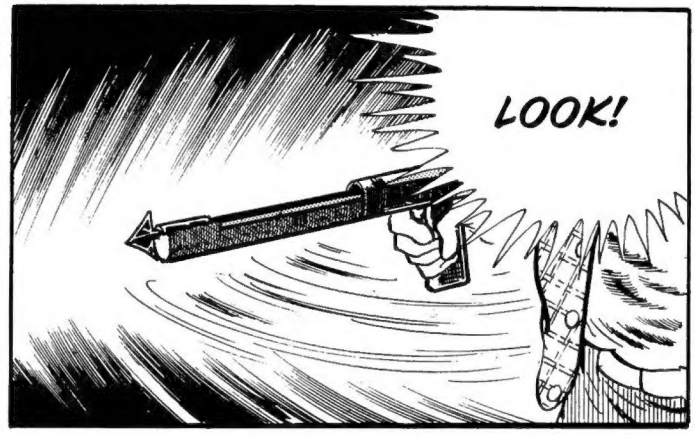


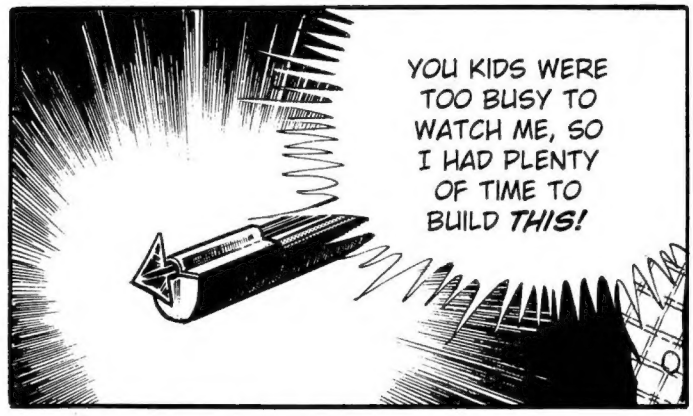
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN ***BIG TROUBLE,*** TAKAMATSU!

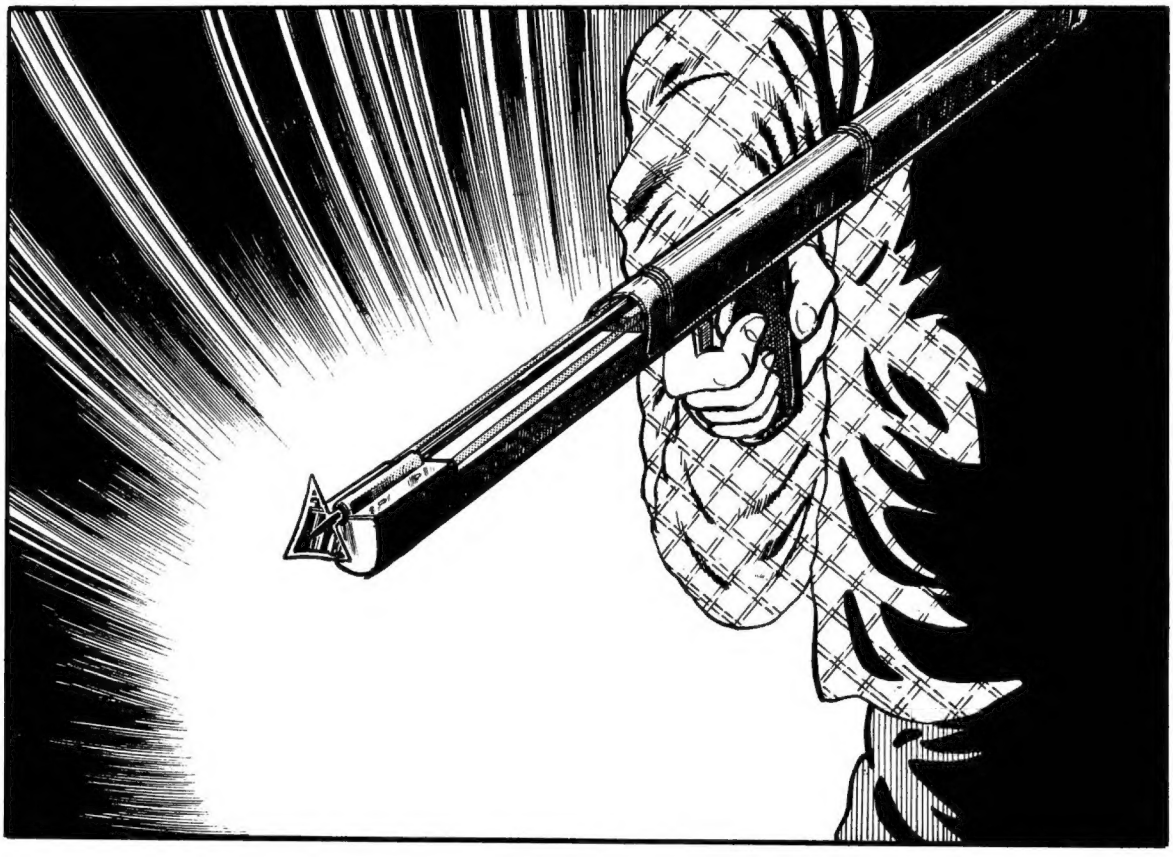
CHAPTER 29: COLD STARES



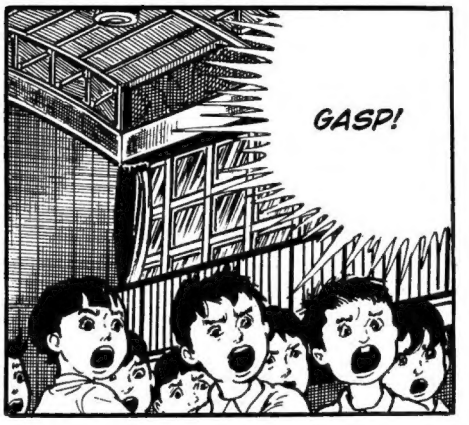

LOOK!

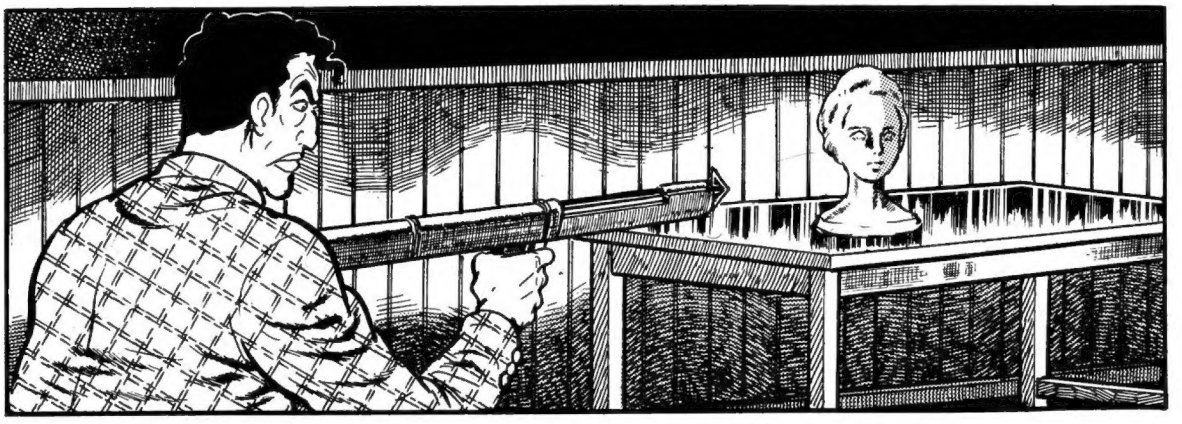
I'VE BEEN BACK TO NORMAL FOR A WHILE NOW!


YOU KIDS WERE TOO BUSY TO WATCH ME, SO I HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO BUILD THIS!



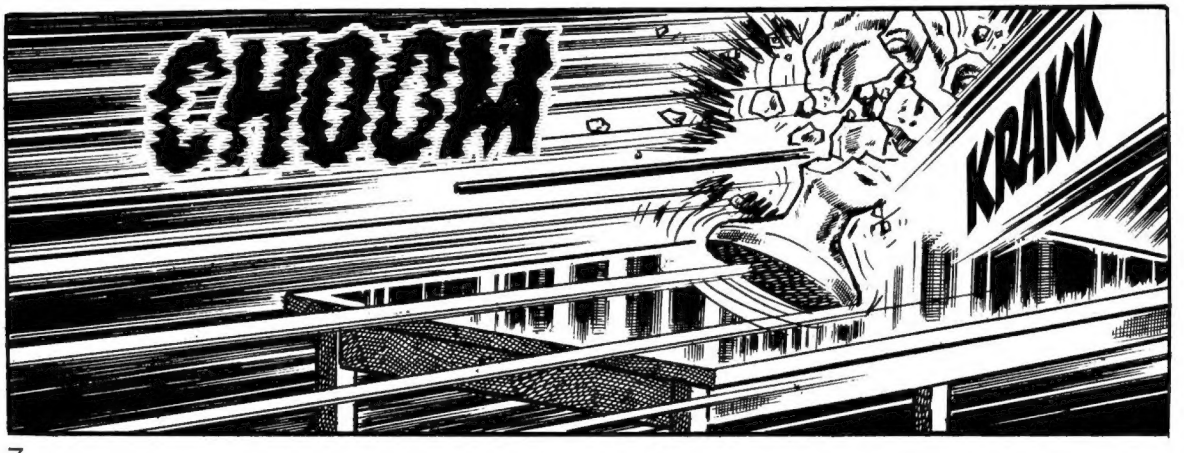
WATCH THIS.


GASP!

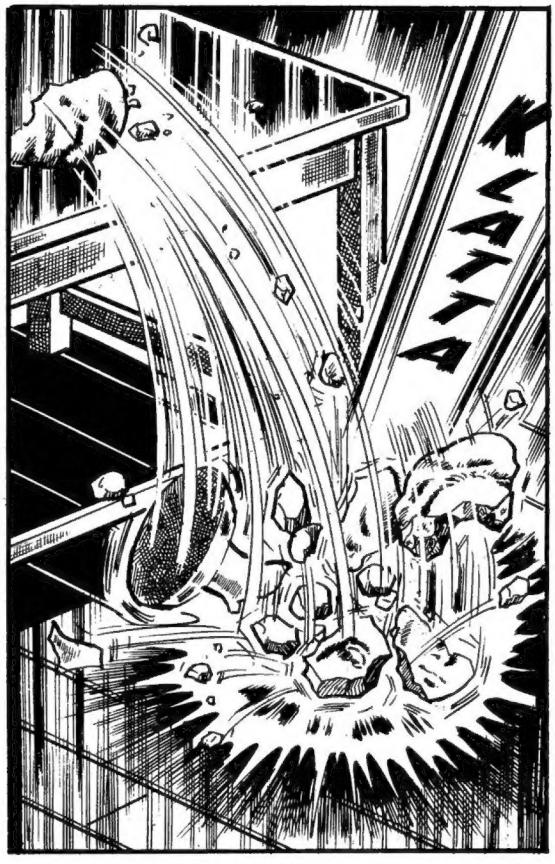


KLIK

NO! DON'T! THAT'S OUR GOD!


CHOOM
KRAKK

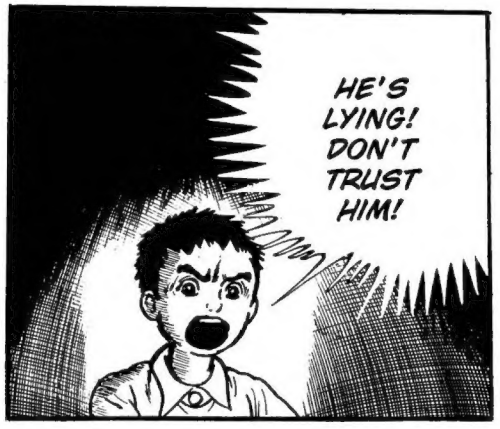
I'M YOUR GOD NOW!
I DIPPED THE ARROWS IN POISON!


KLAKKA

YOU KIDS CAN'T TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES! YOU NEED AN ADULT!

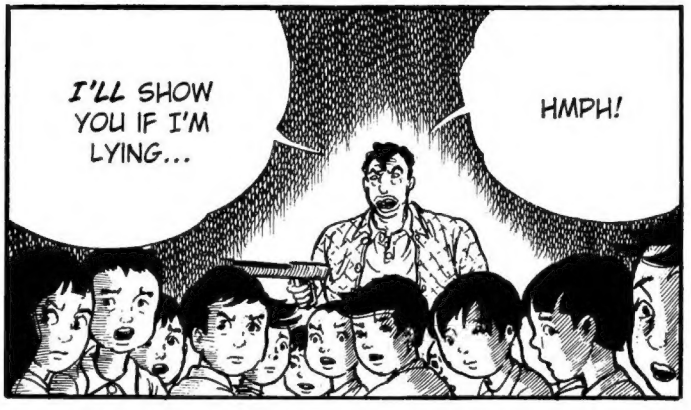
WAHH!

NOW C'MERE! COME TO SEKIYA! I'LL MAKE EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT!


HE'S LYING! DON'T TRUST HIM!

I'LL PROTECT YOU FROM EVERYTHING! EVEN THE MONSTERS!
THAT'S RIGHT! COME HERE!

ALL HE CARES ABOUT IS HIMSELF!
THOSE ARROWS AREN'T POISONED!

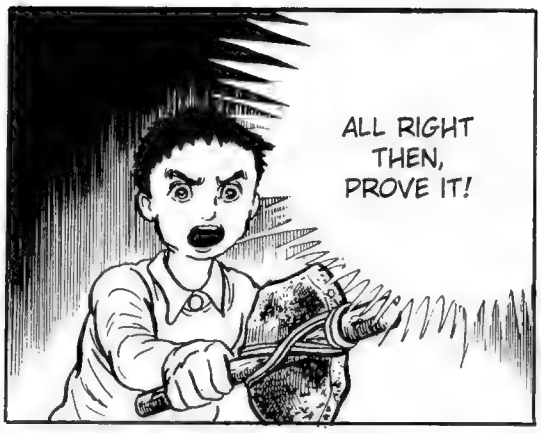

I'LL SHOW YOU IF I'M LYING...
HMPH!

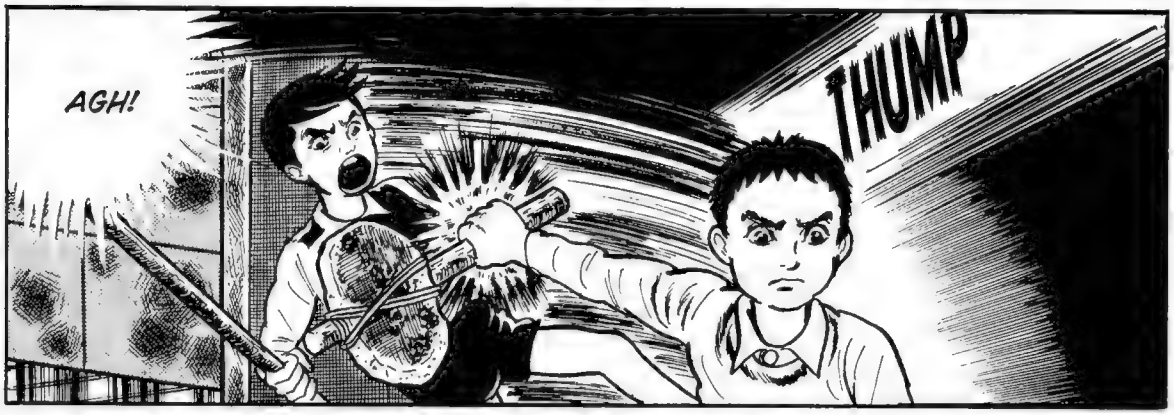
STOP IT, TAKAMATSU!

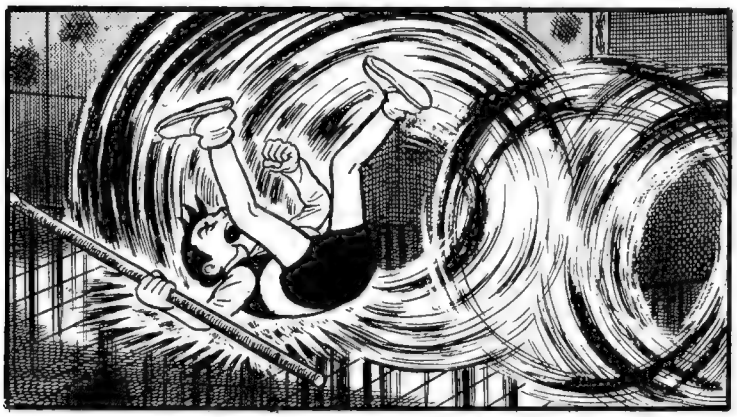
YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOURSELF KILLED!

GET BACK, YOU IDIOT!

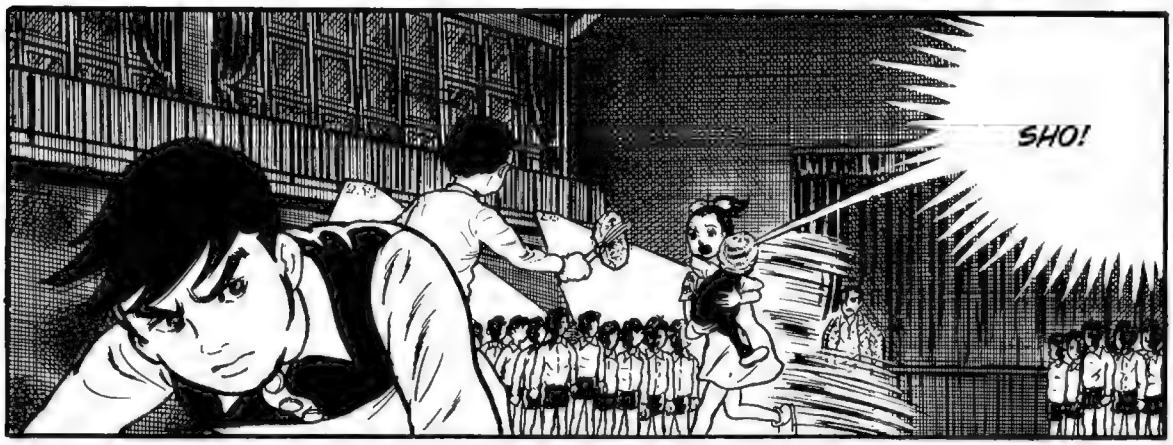
I TOLD YOU, SHUT UP!


ALL RIGHT THEN, PROVE IT!


AGH!
THUMP



THUNK


SHO!

I'LL LET YOU OFF THIS TIME.

HMPH!

AH!
GO AWAY!

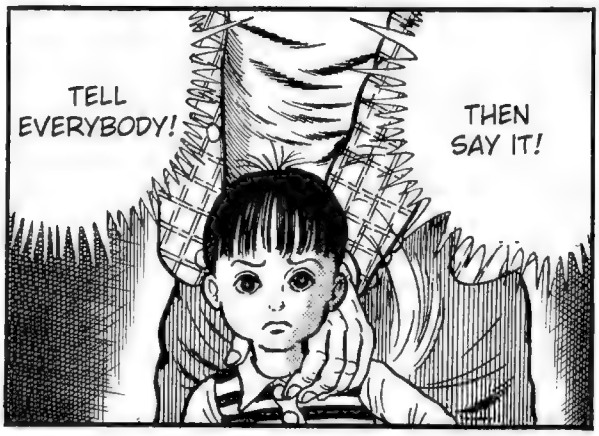
WHO SAW IT?!

ALL RIGHT THEN! SOMEONE SAY WHAT TAKAMATSU DID!

YOU?

I-I DID...

I SAW HIM!


TELL EVERYBODY!
THEN SAY IT!

WHY WOULD YOU SNEAK INTO SCHOOL LATE AT NIGHT?

I SAW TAKAMATSU SNEAK INTO SCHOOL THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BIG EARTHQUAKE!

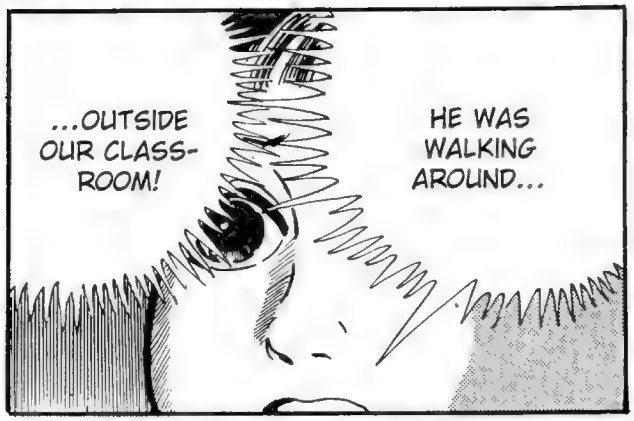
WH-WHAT?!

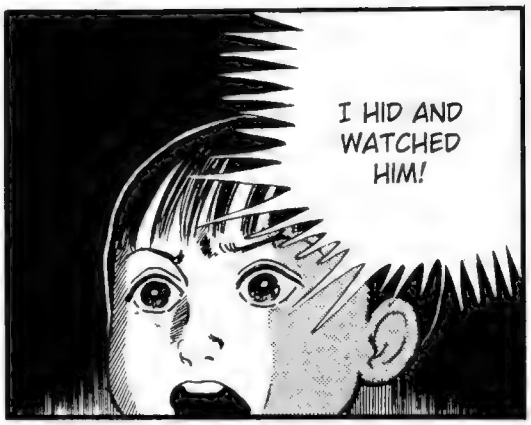
I HAD A FIGHT WITH MY MOM AND I DIDN'T WANT TO STAY AT HOME! SO I WENT TO THE SCHOOL!
IT WASN'T LATE AT NIGHT!

WELL? AND THEN WHAT?

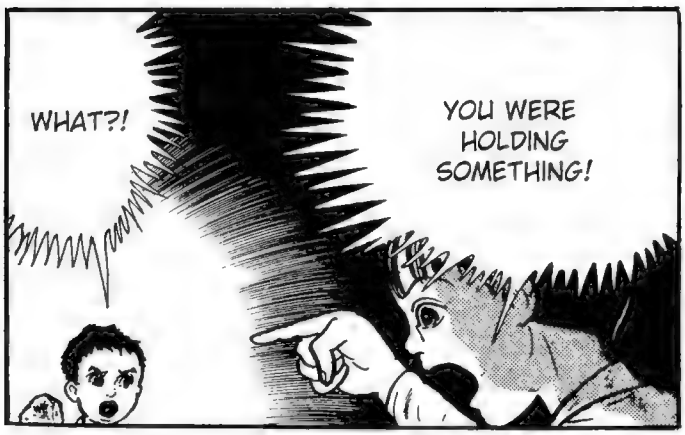
SO YOU WERE HERE!

SPEAK UP! DON'T MUMBLE!


...OUTSIDE OUR CLASS-ROOM!
HE WAS WALKING AROUND...

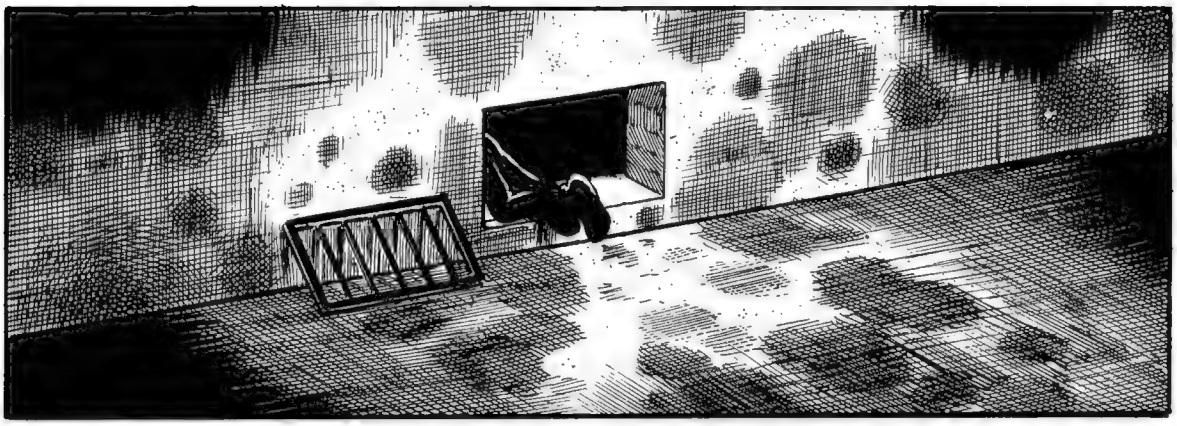

I HID AND WATCHED HIM!

DON'T ACT ALL INNO-CENT!


WHAT?!
YOU WERE HOLDING SOMETHING!

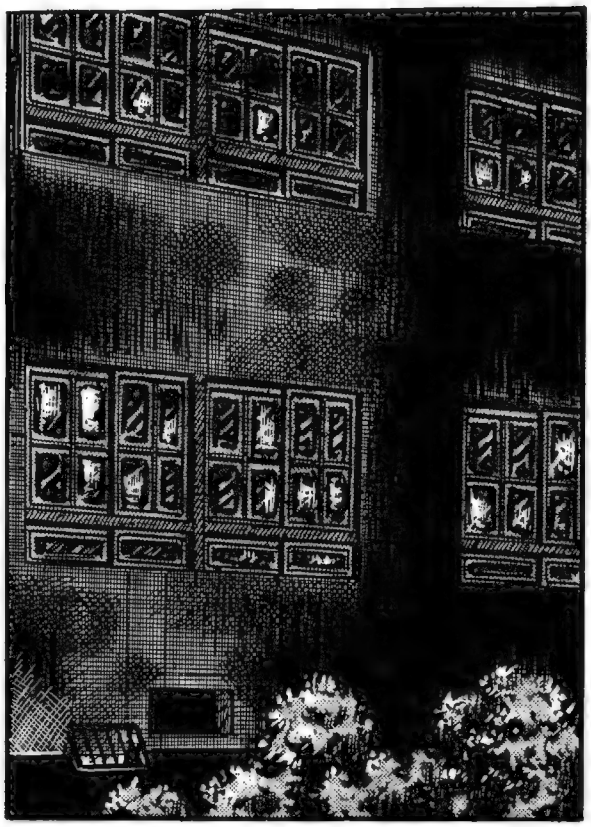
SO WHAT?! WHY WOULD I EVEN REMEMBER THAT?!

IT'S A WRIST-WATCH!
YOU MEAN THIS?
WHAT WERE YOU DOING SKULKING AROUND THE SCHOOL AT NIGHT WITH A WRIST-WATCH? YOUR STORY DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, TAKAMATSU!
HMPH!
I WAS GOING TO GIVE IT TO MY MOTHER!
THEN YOU SNUCK IN BELOW THE FACULTY ROOM!
NO, IT WASN'T A WATCH! IT WAS BIGGER!

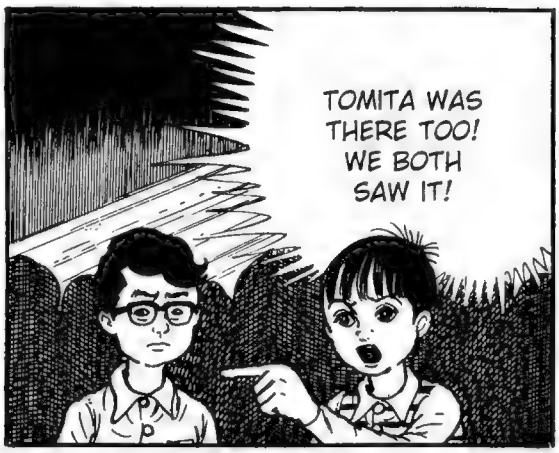


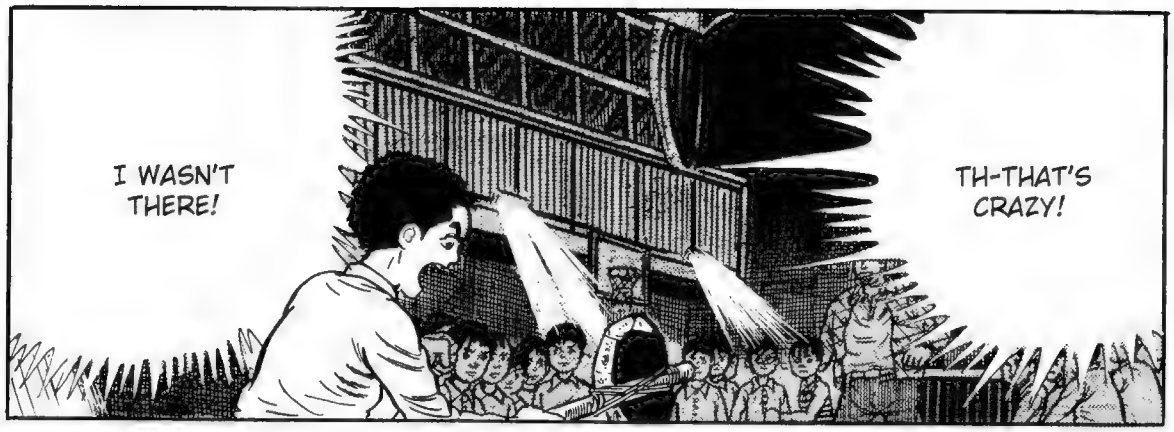
I COULDN'T TELL WHAT YOU WERE DOING THERE...

I GOT SCARED, SO I RAN AWAY!

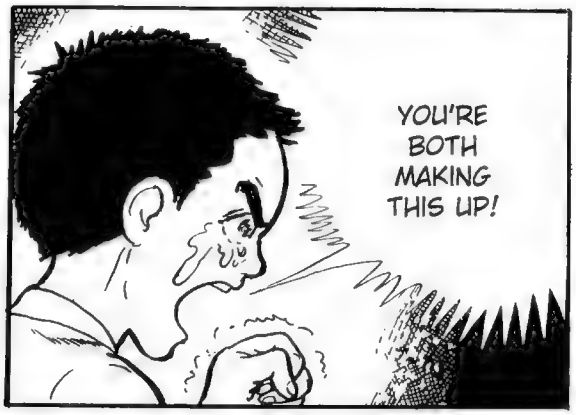


THAT'S TWO WITNESSES! YOU CAN'T DENY IT!


TOMITA WAS THERE TOO! WE BOTH SAW IT!

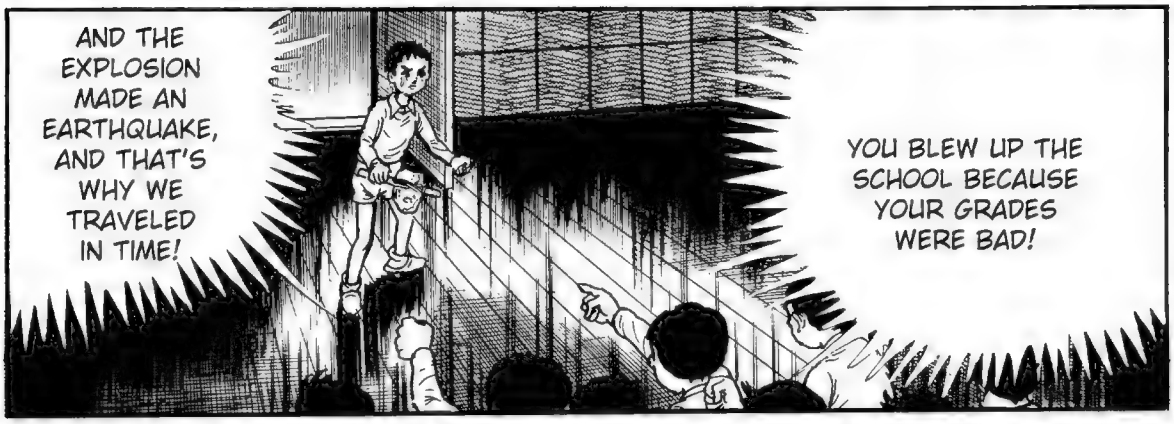

I WASN'T THERE!
TH-THAT'S CRAZY!

IT'S *TRUE!* WE EVEN HAVE PROOF!


YOU'RE BOTH MAKING THIS UP!

WE FOUND IT UNDER THE FACULTY ROOM!
LOOK! IT'S A LEFTOVER PIECE OF HOMEMADE DYNAMITE!

THE WHOLE PLACE UNDER THE SCHOOL WAS DAMAGED! YOU SET OFF THE EXPLOSION!
WE ALSO FOUND A BROKEN ALARM CLOCK!


AND THE EXPLOSION MADE AN EARTHQUAKE, AND THAT'S WHY WE TRAVELED IN TIME!
YOU BLEW UP THE SCHOOL BECAUSE YOUR GRADES WERE BAD!

HOW CAN I?! I SAID, I WASN'T THERE!

THEN *PROVE* IT!

IT WASN'T ME!!

WE'RE NOT SCIEN-TISTS!
HOW SHOULD WE KNOW?!

I AM NOT! BESIDES, HOW COULD A LITTLE EXPLOSION CAUSE AN EARTHQUAKE?!

SO YOU'RE *GUILTY!*

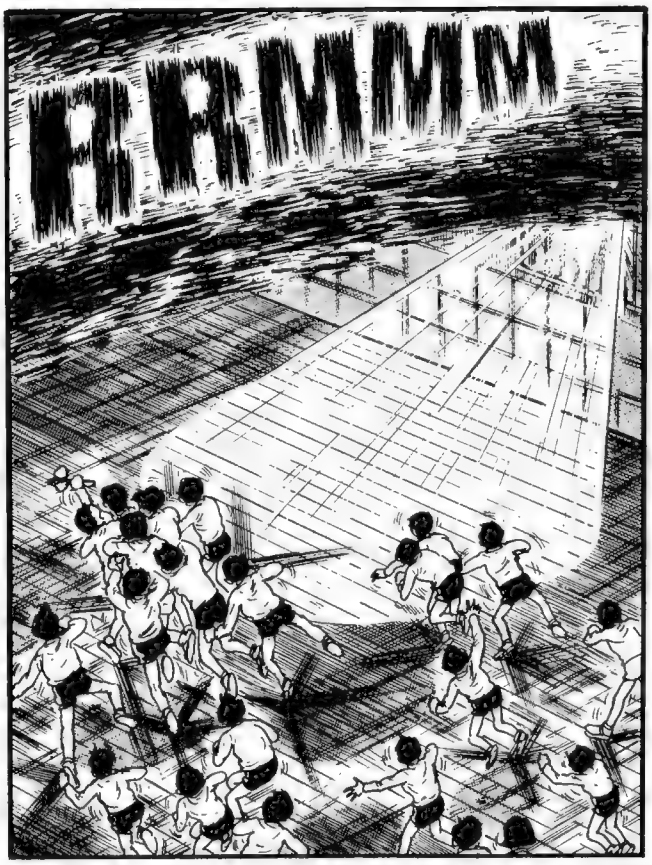
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! INCLUDING YOSHIKAWA AND THE OTHERS BEING SNATCHED AWAY BY THOSE MONSTERS!

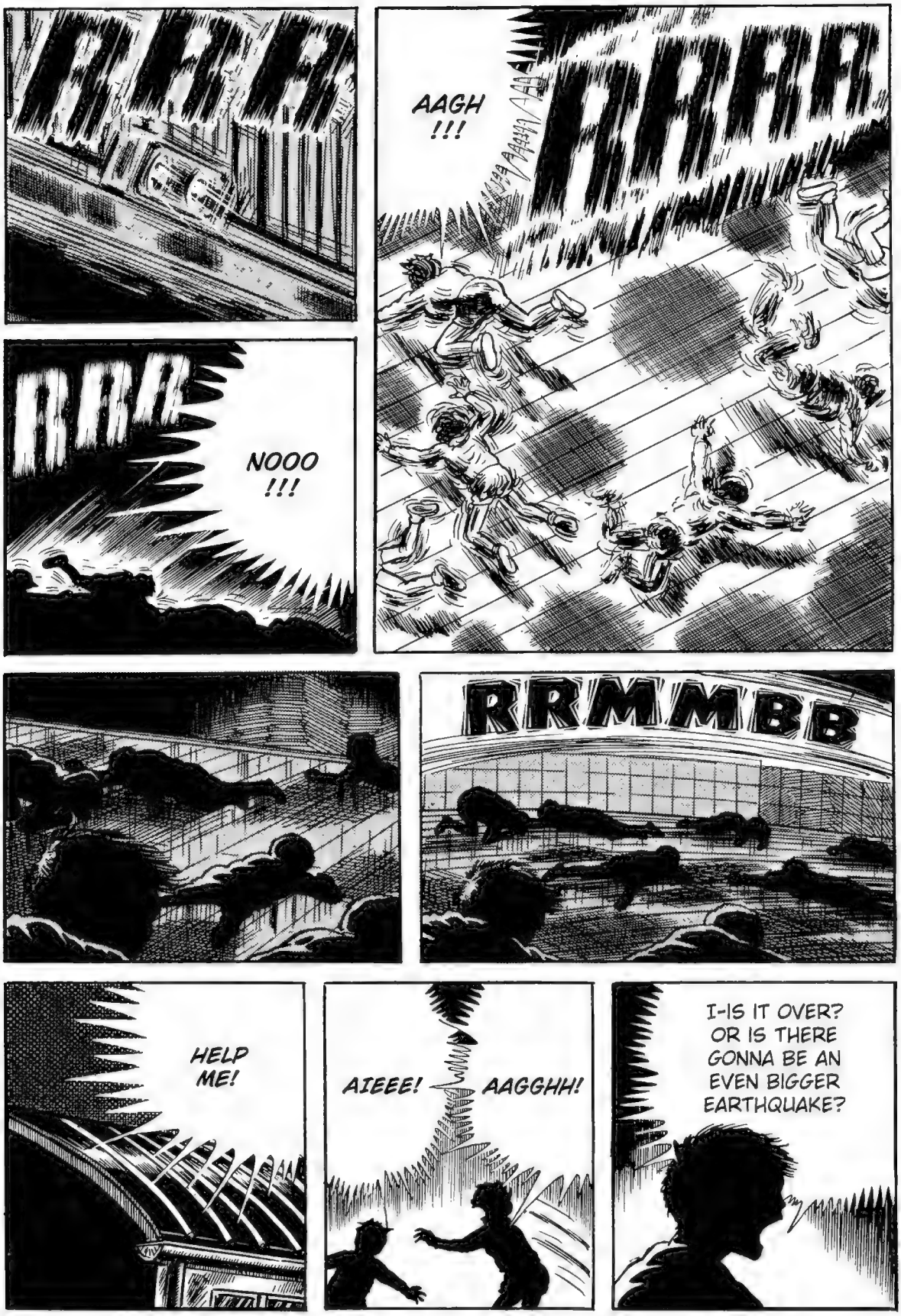
THEY SAID ON TV THAT IT WAS TIME FOR AN EARTHQUAKE! TAKAMATSU MADE IT COME TRUE!
A WHISPER CAN CAUSE AN AVALANCHE!

RRR...
HUH?!

STOP IT!

AIEEE!




AAGH !!!
NOOO !!!
RRMMBB
HELP ME!
AIEEE!
AAGGHH!
I-IS IT OVER? OR IS THERE GONNA BE AN EVEN BIGGER EARTHQUAKE?

BUT IN THE MORNING, NO ONE WOULD TALK TO ME.
THE EARTHQUAKE STOPPED THE OTHERS FROM KILLING ME...
I DIDN'T GET ANY FOOD THAT DAY. SEKIYA ATE AS MUCH AS HE WANTED...
KREEK
MOTHER ...!

WE'RE HERE TOO!

OTOMO!

TAKAMATSU!

I BROUGHT SOME FOOD FOR YOU. THIS IS GAMO'S!

BURRP!

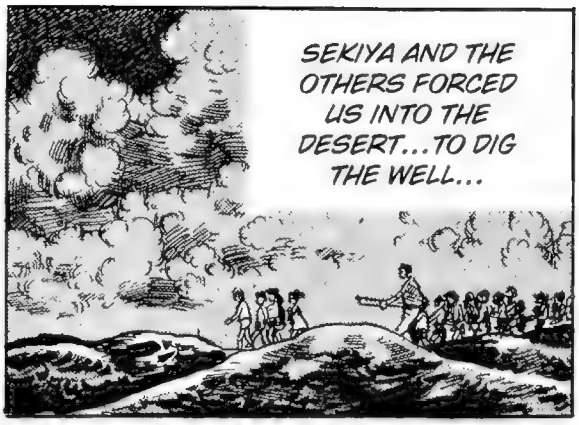
OH!

NISHI WANTED TO COME, BUT SHE COULDN'T GET AWAY. SEKIYA WAS WATCHING TOO CL...

THEN IT'LL TAKE YOUR MINDS OFF IT IF YOU WORK!

WE'RE STARVING!

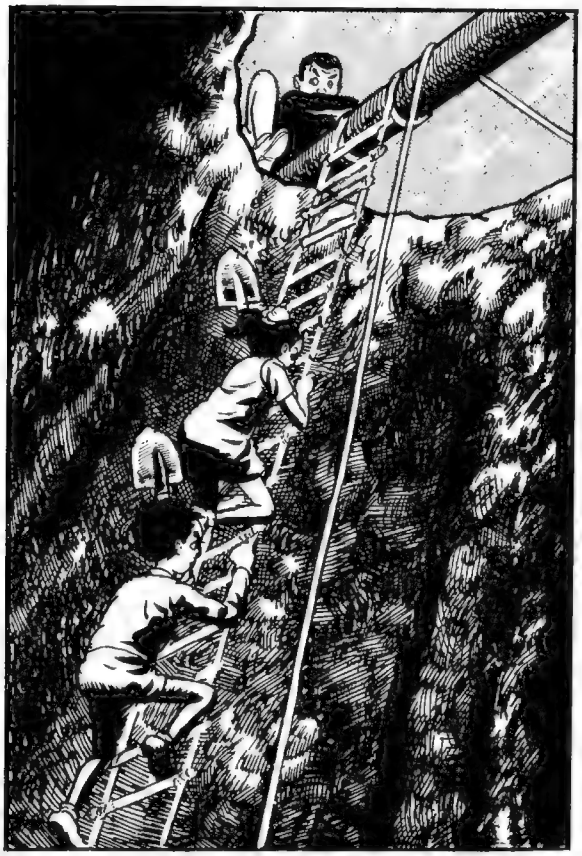
HMPH. YOU MUST NOT BE THAT HUNGRY IF YOU CAN AFFORD TO SHARE YOUR FOOD.


SEKIYA AND THE OTHERS FORCED US INTO THE DESERT...TO DIG THE WELL...

LET SAKI STAY! SHE'S NOT PART OF THIS!

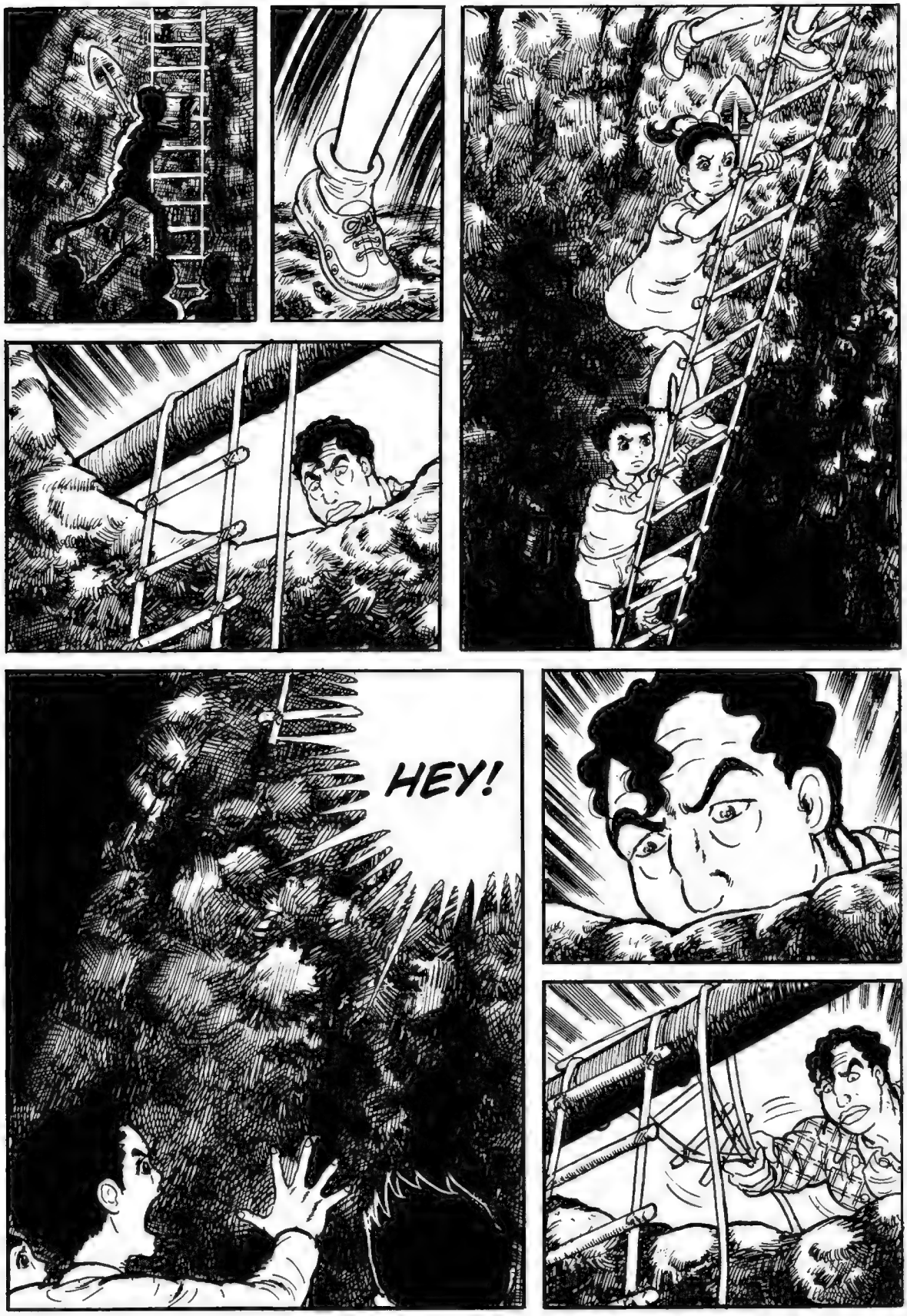
THERE'S YOUR SHOVEL!

GET DOWN THERE!



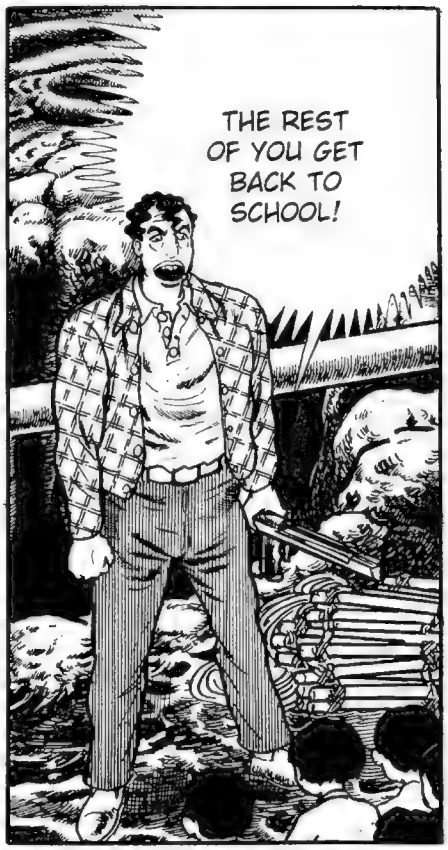
SHUT UP! GET DOWN THERE!

OWW!
THUMP


HEY!

YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE UNTIL YOU DIG UP SOME WATER!

I'M TRAINING YOU FOR *WAR!*

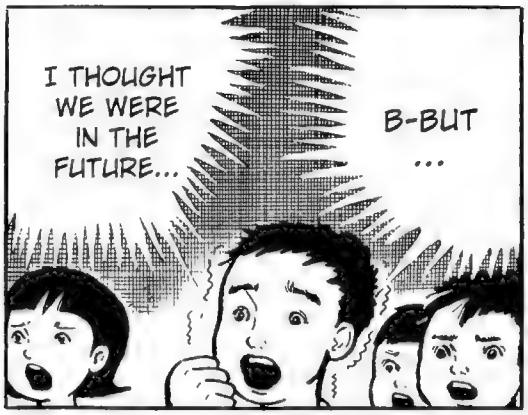

THE REST OF YOU GET BACK TO SCHOOL!

BUT SHOULDN'T WE BE GROWING PLANTS...?

W-WAR?

THE AMERICANS WILL BRING US PLENTY OF RICE AND MEAT!
YOU IDIOTS! YOUR LITTLE PLAY FARM IS USELESS!

THE *FUTURE* ...?


I THOUGHT WE WERE IN THE FUTURE...
B-BUT ...

COME HERE!

I SAID *YOU!* STEP FORWARD!

DID YOU SAY WE'RE IN THE FUTURE!?

YOU COULD USE SOME MILITARY DISCIPLINE!
STAND UP STRAIGHT! CLENCH YOUR TEETH!

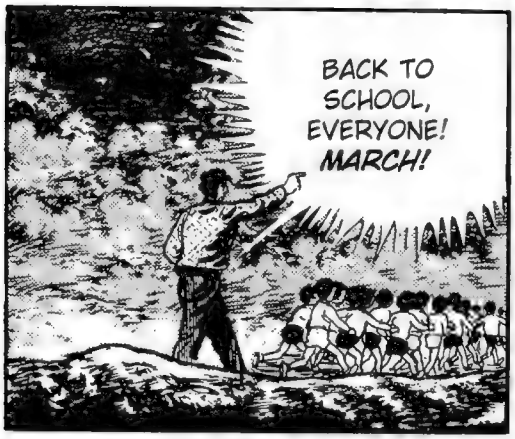
I'LL KNOCK THOSE FANTASIES OUT OF YOUR HEAD!

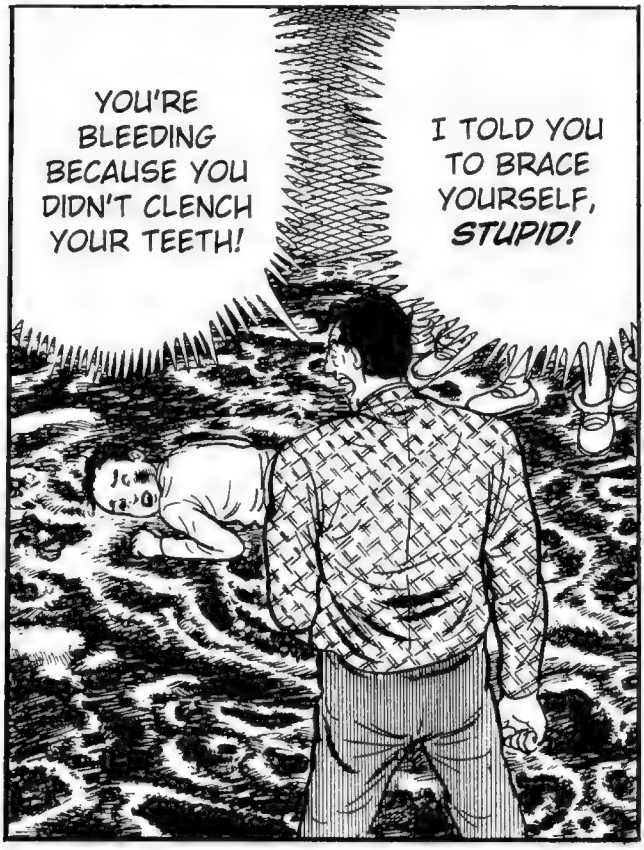
THIS WAS HOW THEY TREATED KIDS WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE!

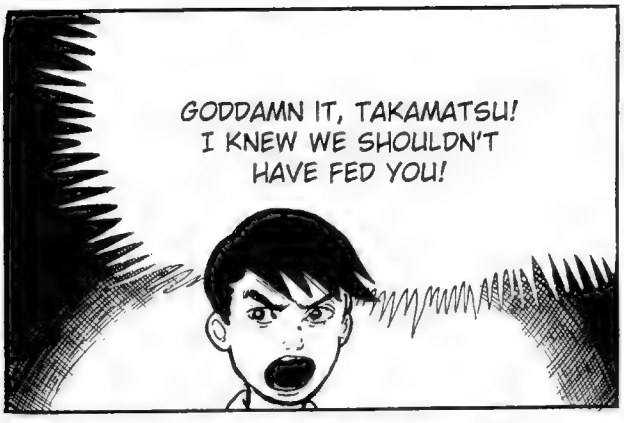
UNGGH!

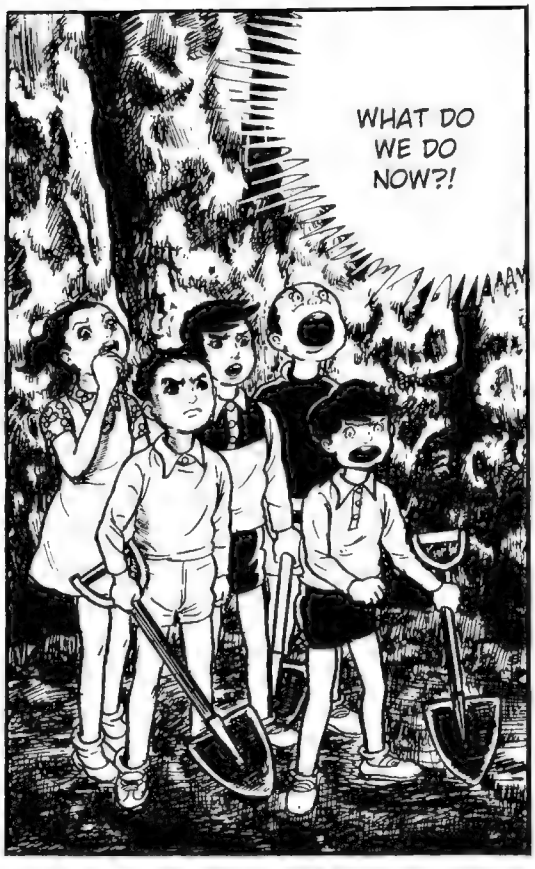
WHAK

HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO FIGHT MONSTERS IF YOU'RE NOT EVEN *THAT* TOUGH?!


BACK TO SCHOOL, EVERYONE! *MARCH!*


YOU'RE BLEEDING BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T CLENCH YOUR TEETH!
I TOLD YOU TO BRACE YOURSELF, *STUPID!*


GODDAMN IT, TAKAMATSU! I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE FED YOU!


WHAT DO WE DO NOW?!

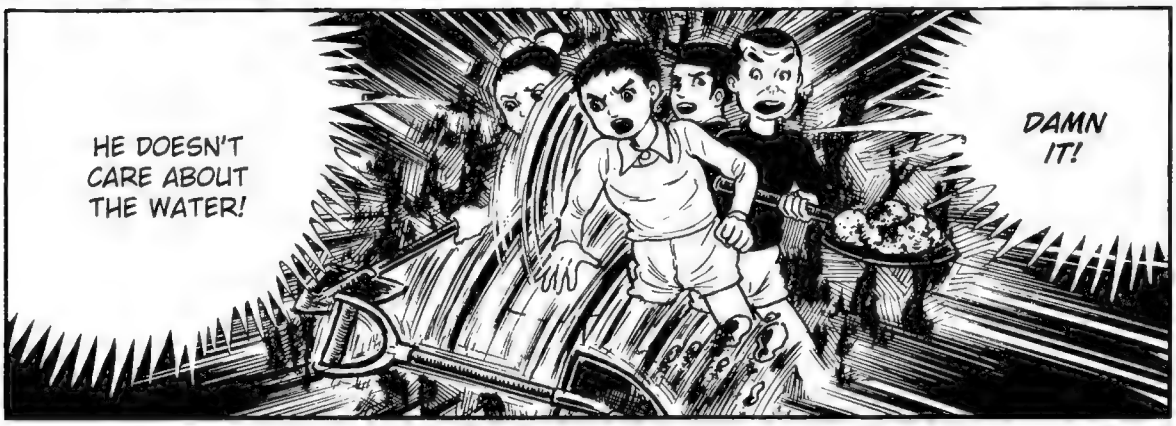
THAT BASTARD SEKIYA!
RRAGGH! DAMN IT!

WE REALLY DO NEED WATER!
WE HAVE TO DIG!

THUK

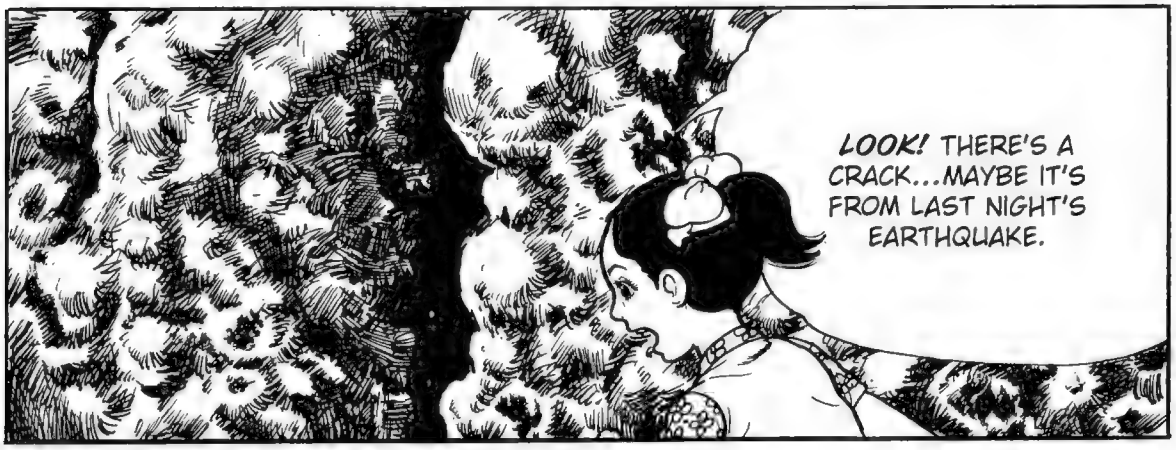
DIG!

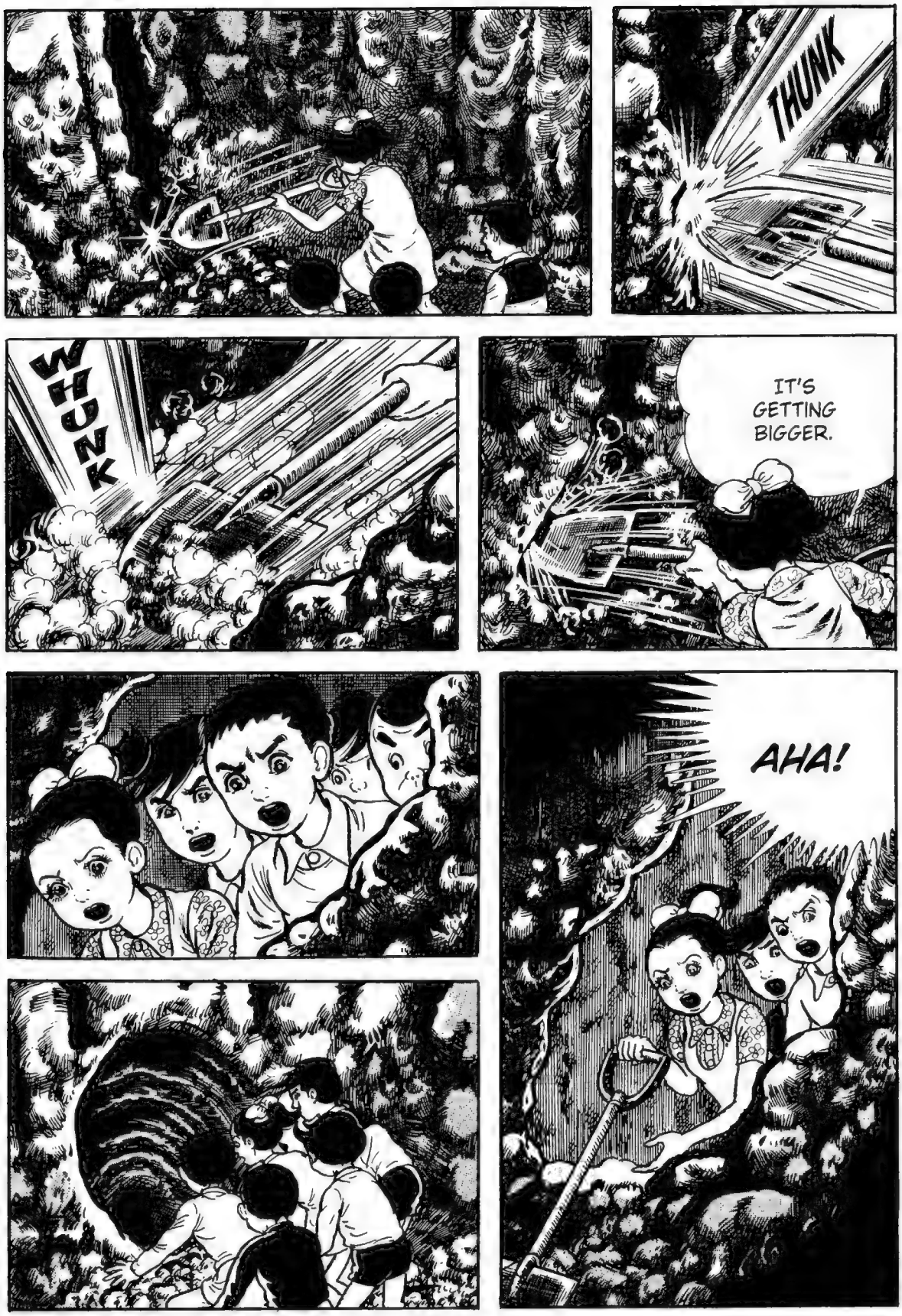
WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS SAND?! HE TOOK AWAY THE HAULING ROPES!

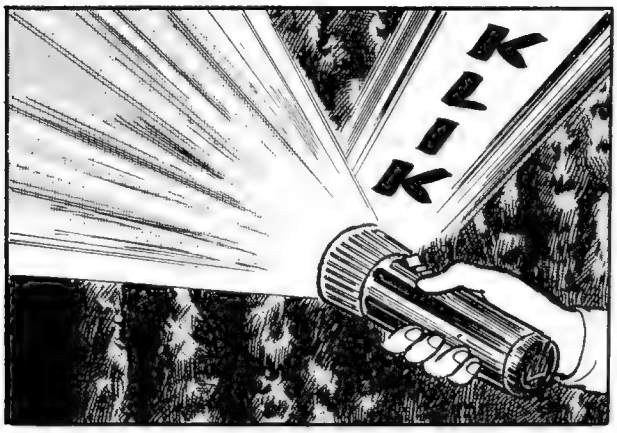

HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE WATER!
DAMN IT!

HUH?

WE CAN'T GIVE UP, THOUGH...!

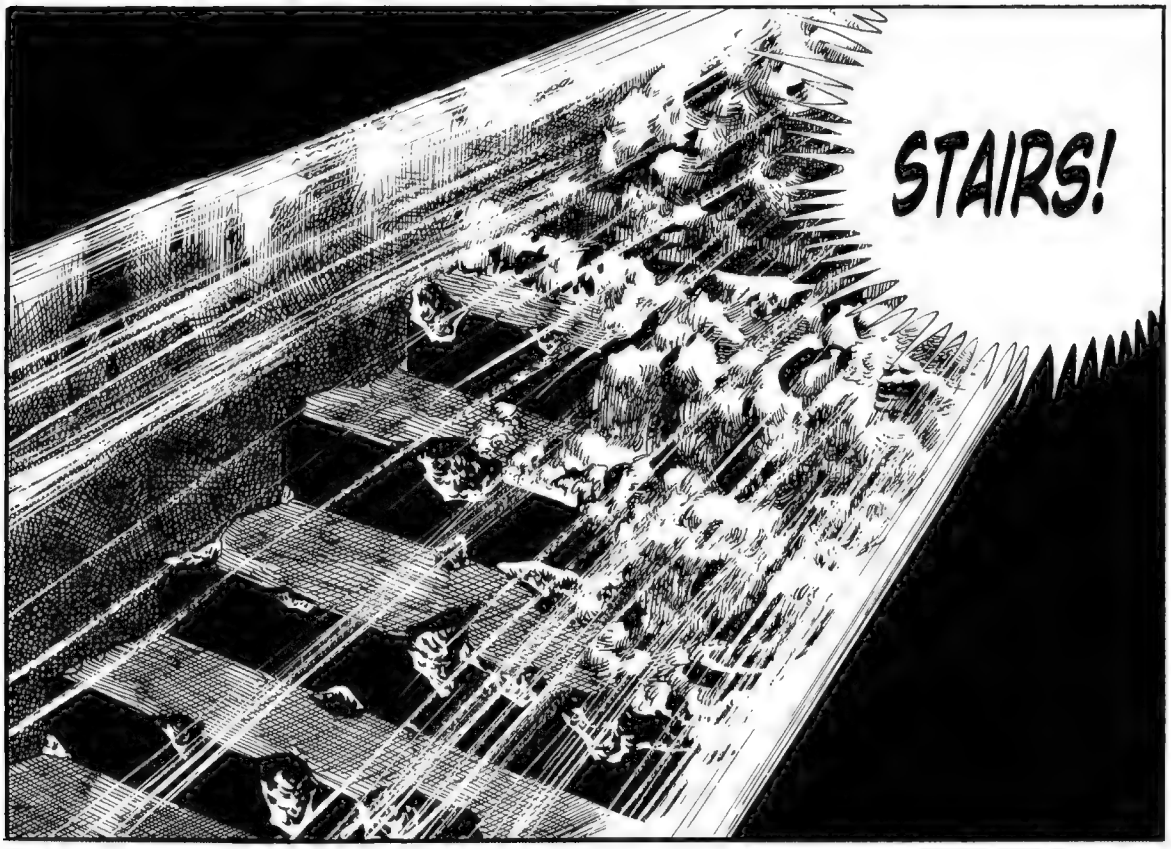

LOOK! THERE'S A CRACK...MAYBE IT'S FROM LAST NIGHT'S EARTHQUAKE.


THUNK
WHUNK
IT'S GETTING BIGGER.
AHA!

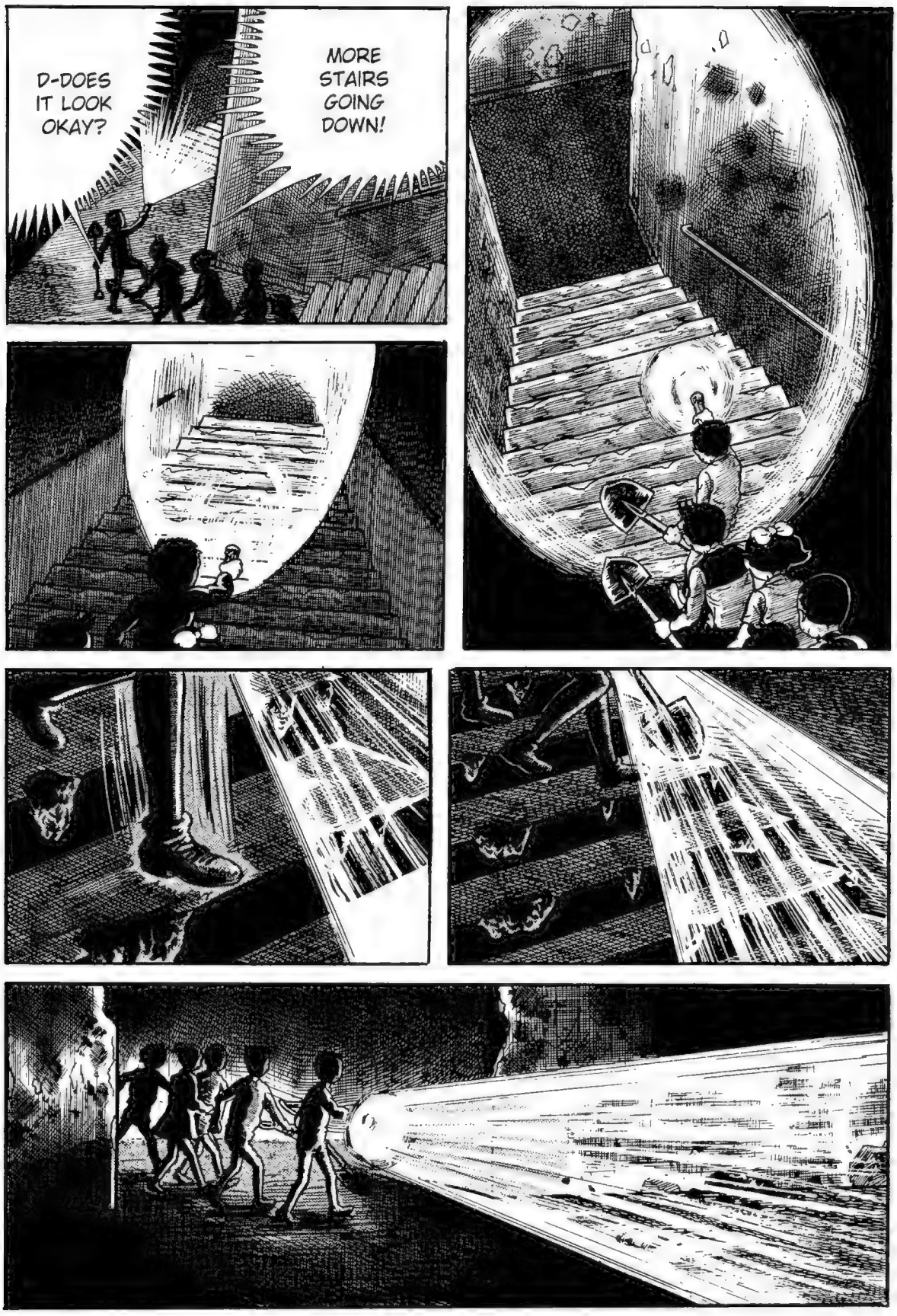

KLIK

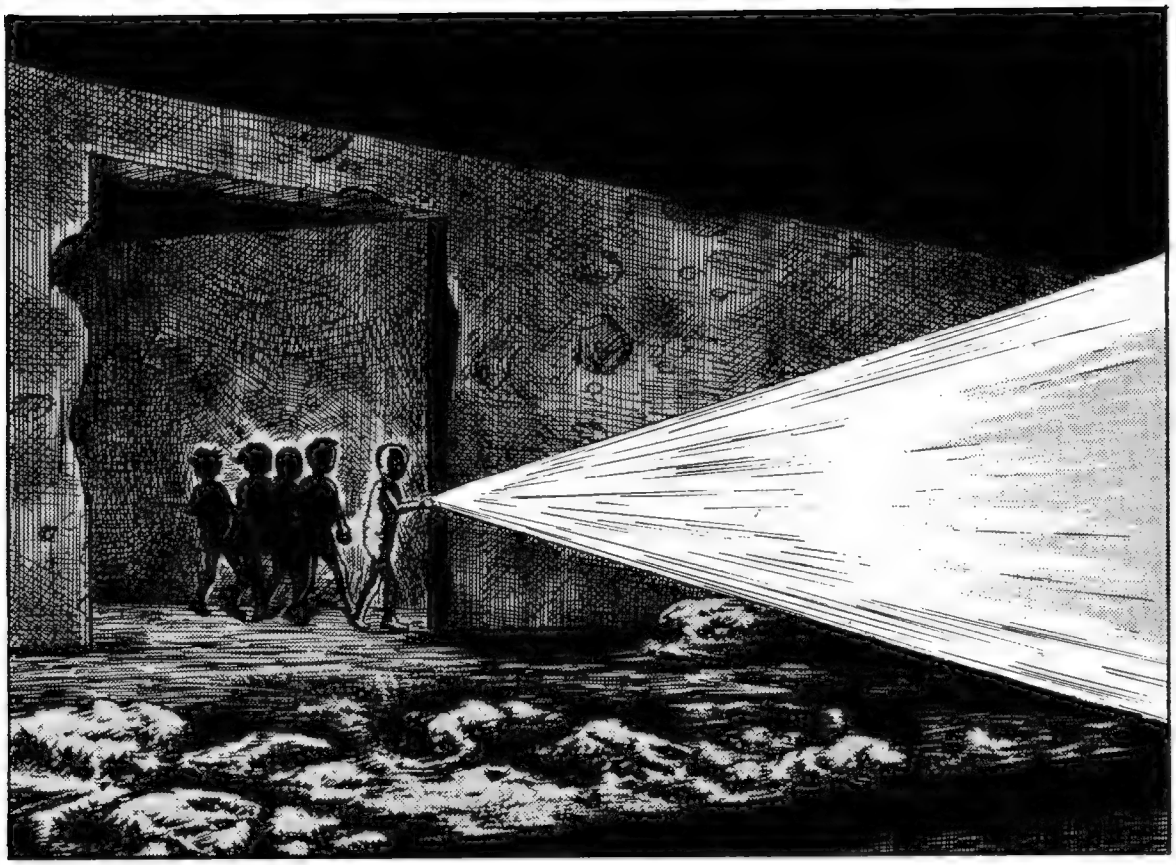
WAIT. I HAVE A FLASHLIGHT...

CHAPTER 30:
THE WORLD BELOW

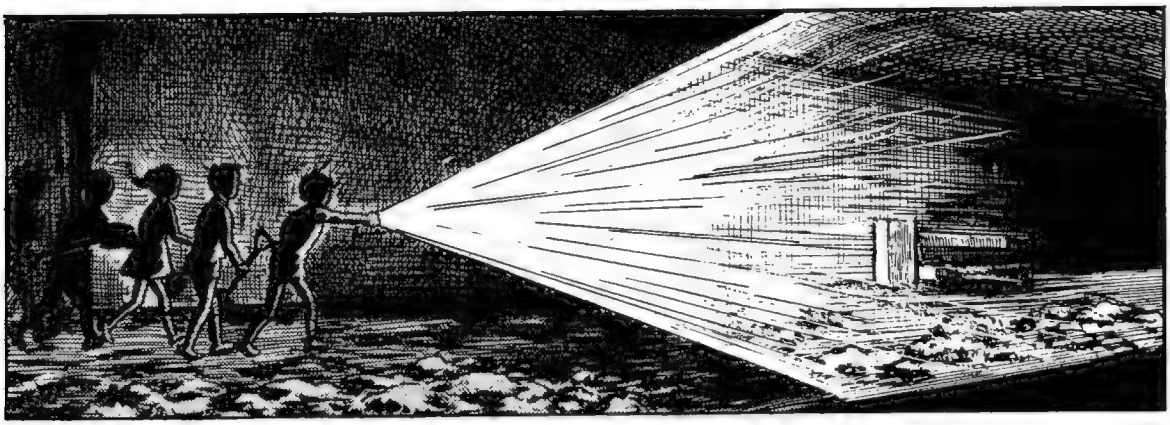

STAIRS!

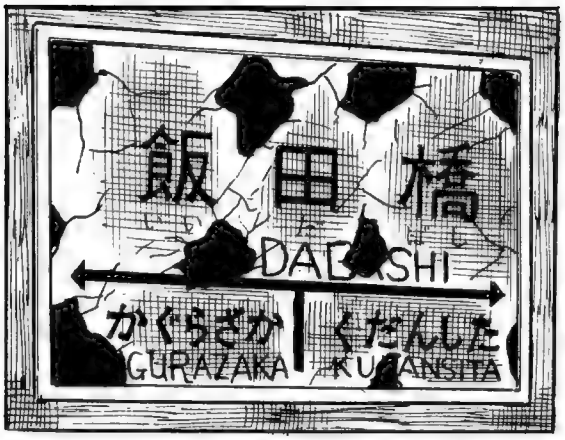
IF WE DON'T WATCH OUT WE MIGHT ASPHYXIATE. I'VE HEARD OF PEOPLE SUFFOCATING IN MANHOLES.
HOLD ON! WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL.
A WAY OUT! L-LET'S GO IN!
IF IT WENT OUT, THAT'D MEAN THERE'S NO OXYGEN.
I WISH WE HAD A CANDLE.
IT MEANS YOU CAN'T BREATHE BECAUSE THERE'S NO OXYGEN.
WHAT'S "ASPHYXIATE"?
THERE MIGHT BE TOXIC GAS TOO...

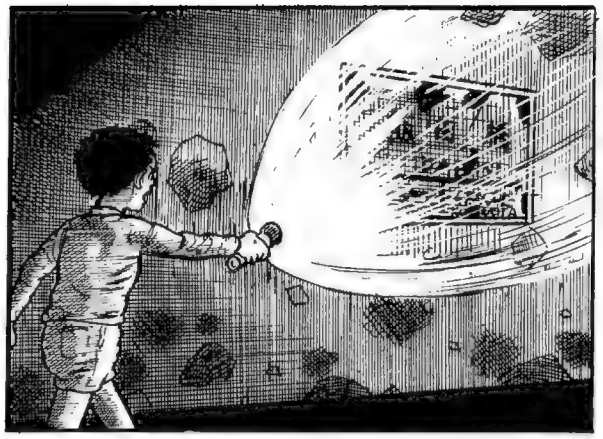

D-DOES IT LOOK OKAY?
MORE STAIRS GOING DOWN!



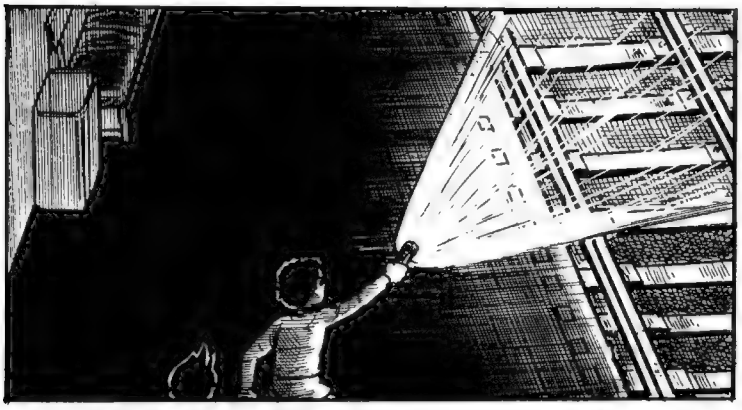
IT'S OPENING UP!
WH-WHAT IS THIS PLACE!?



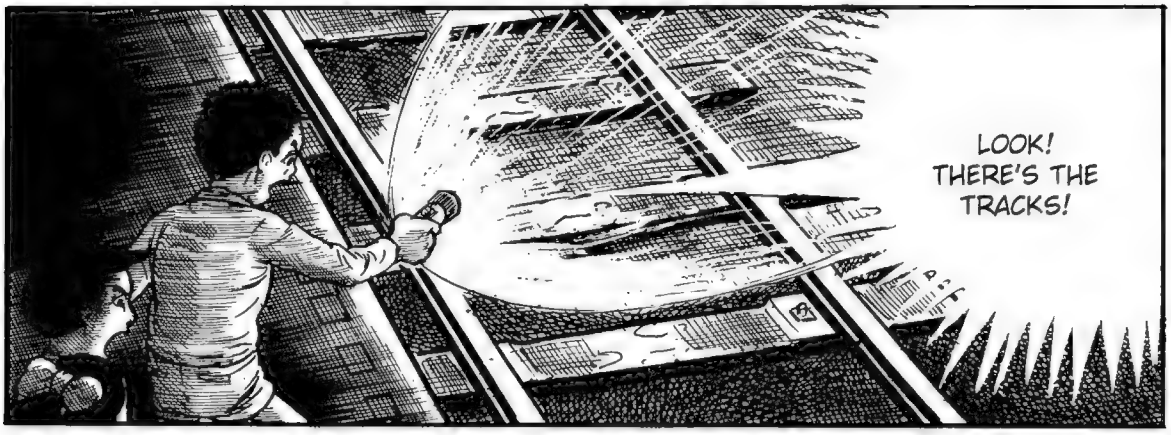

飯田橋
DABASHI
かぐらざか
GURAZAKA
くだんした
KUDANSITA

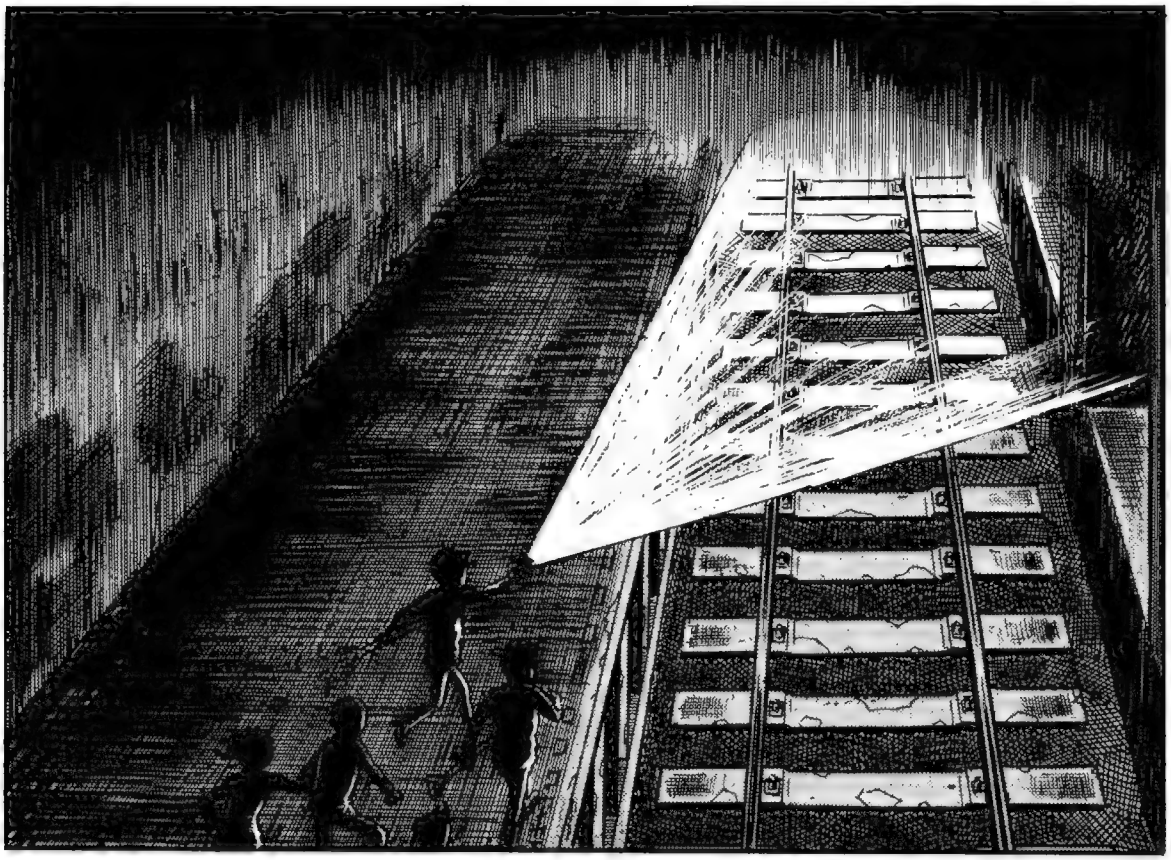


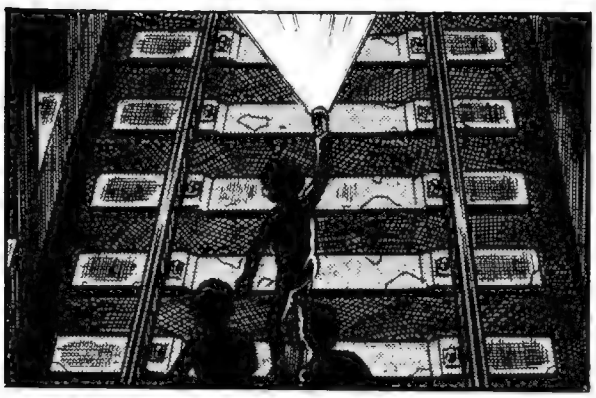
IDABASHI?!

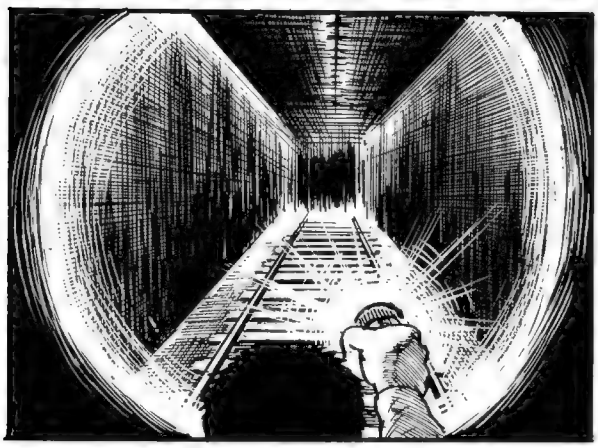


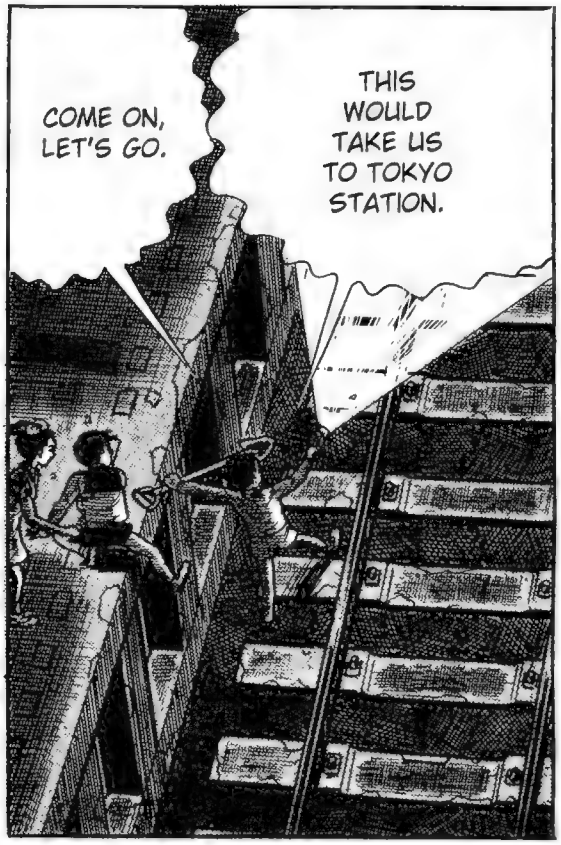
IT'S A SUBWAY STATION!


LOOK! THERE'S THE TRACKS!

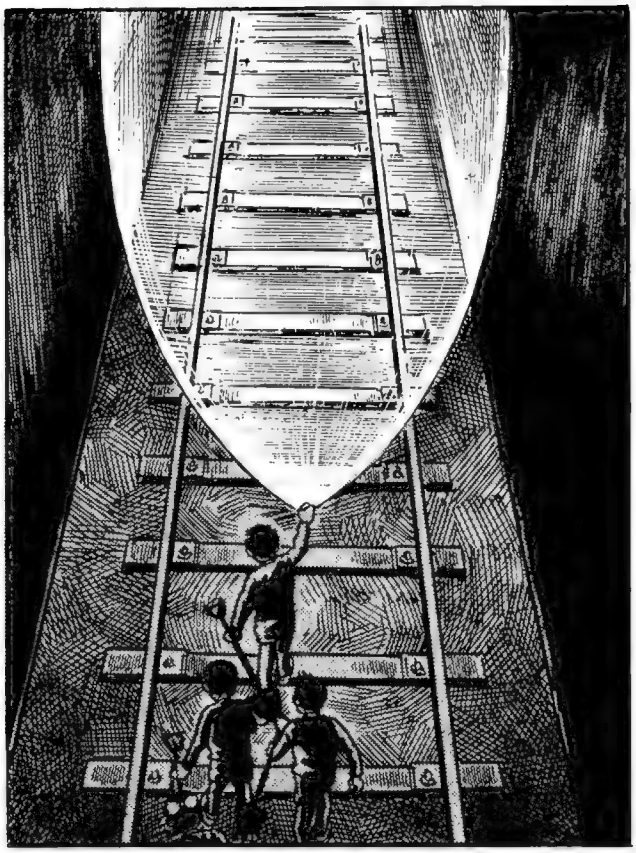


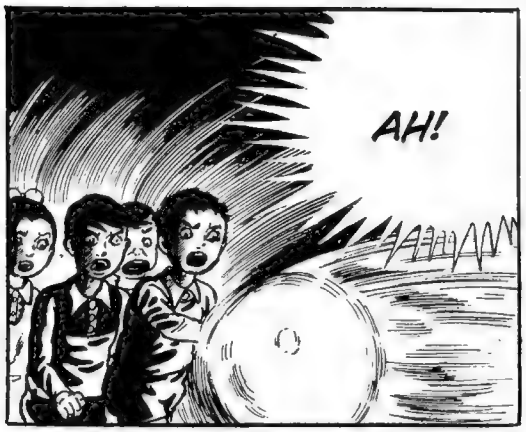


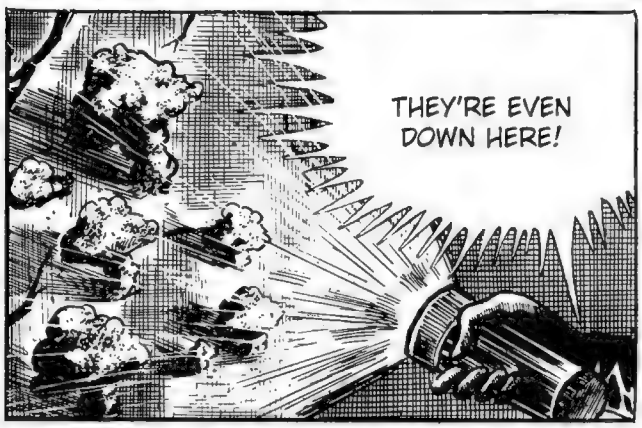



COME ON, LET'S GO.
THIS WOULD TAKE US TO TOKYO STATION.

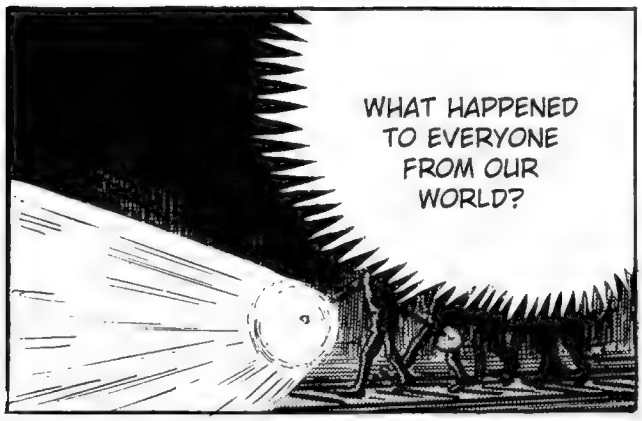
A-ARE YOU SURE THIS IS SAFE...?




AH!


THEY'RE EVEN DOWN HERE!

THE MUTANT MUSHROOMS!


WHAT HAPPENED TO EVERYONE FROM OUR WORLD?

WHAT?!
SHHH! A TRAIN'S COMING!

QUIET, EVERYONE! DO YOU HEAR THAT?

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU MUST BE HEARING THINGS!

CHOO...

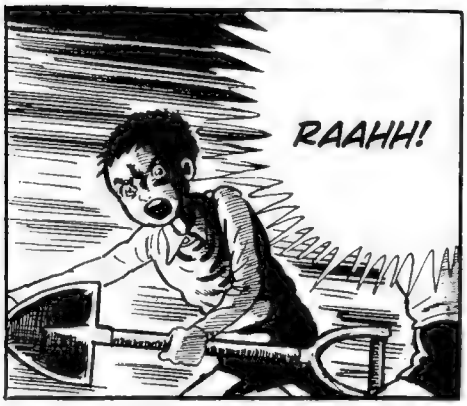
CHOOK
IT'S HEADED FROM THE DIRECTION OF NAKANO!

CHOO...
IT'S A TRAIN!

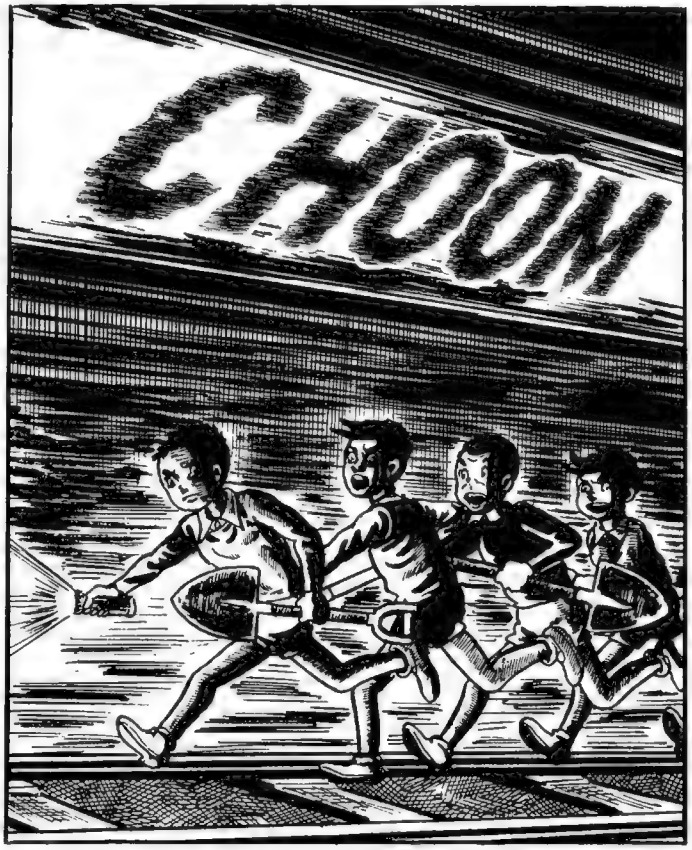
WHAT'LL WE DO?! WE'LL GET RUN OVER!

I-I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
CHOOM

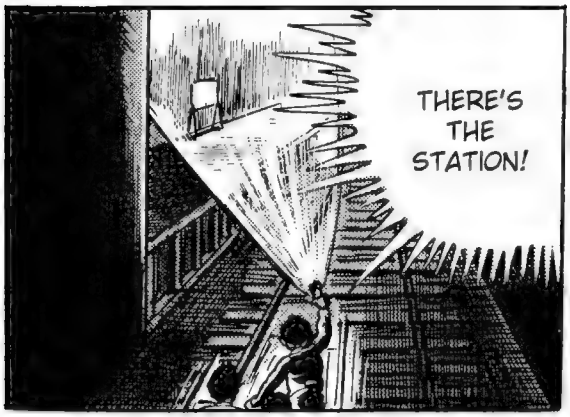
WE HAVE TO REACH THE NEXT STOP, KUDANSHITA!
QUICK! RUN!

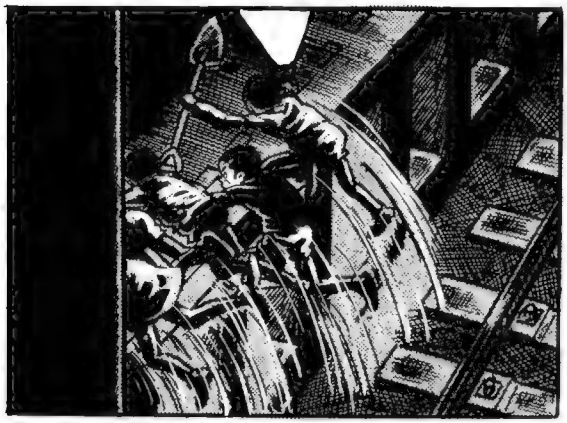

RAAHH!

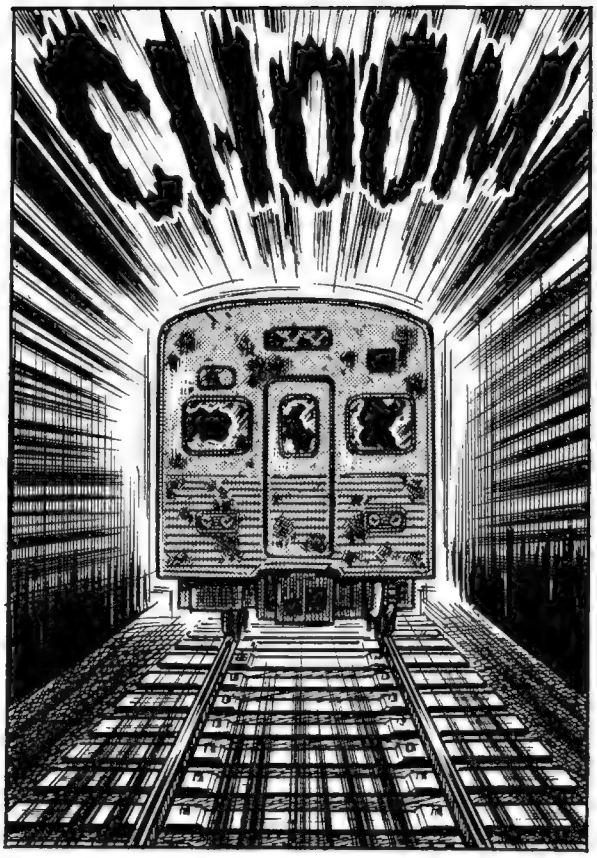
CHOOM

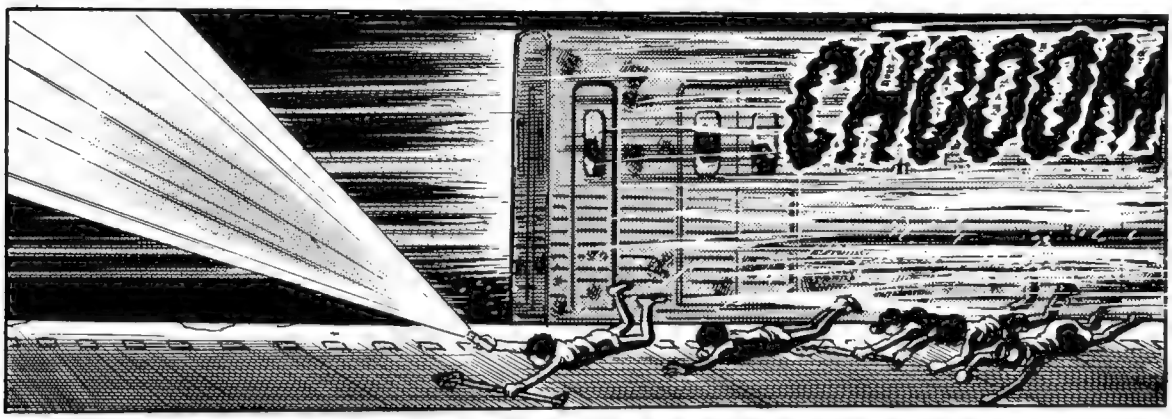

CHOOM

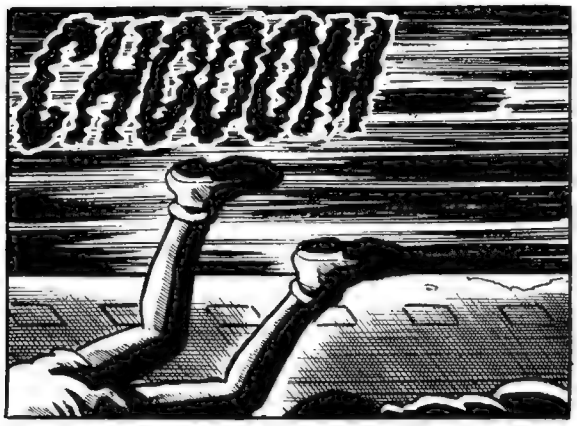
UWAAH!
COME ON! HURRY!
CHOOOM
CHOOOM
GASP!
KLAKETTA KLAKETTA
CHOOOM


THERE'S THE STATION!



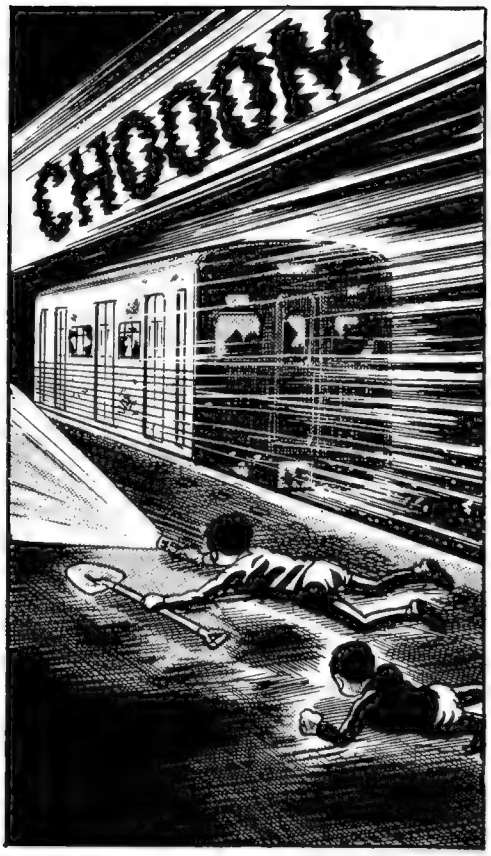

CLOOK

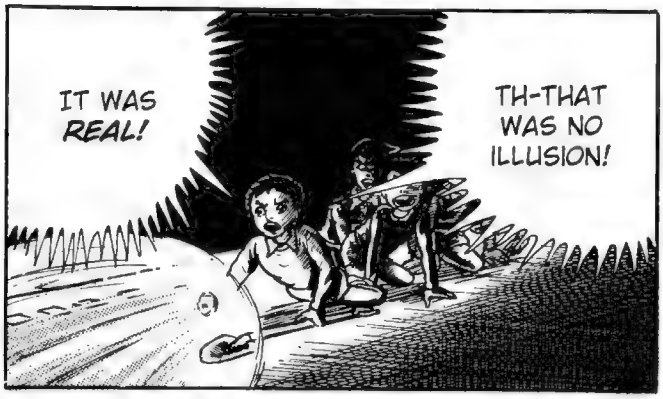

CHOOM

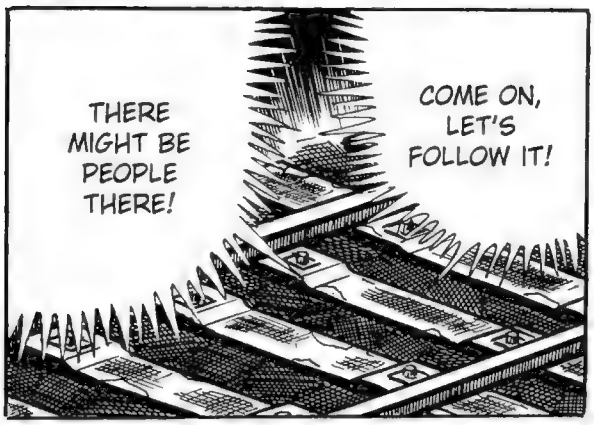

CHOOM

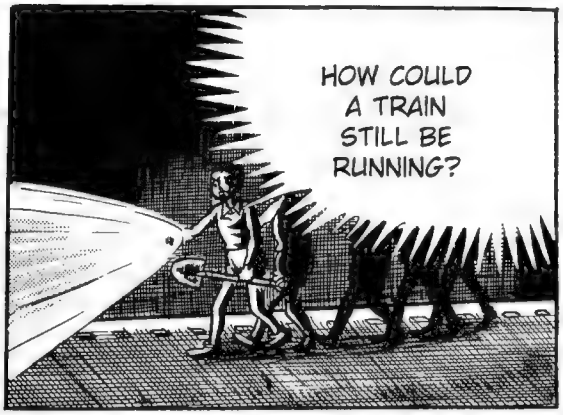
CHOOM

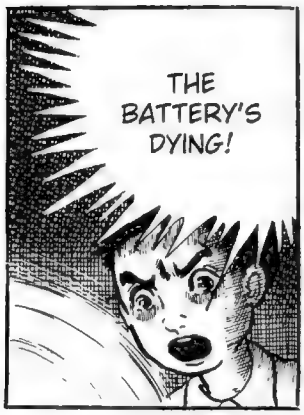
KLAKKIP
KLAKKIP

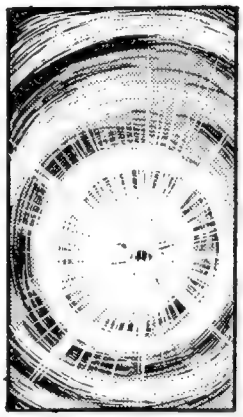

CHOOOM

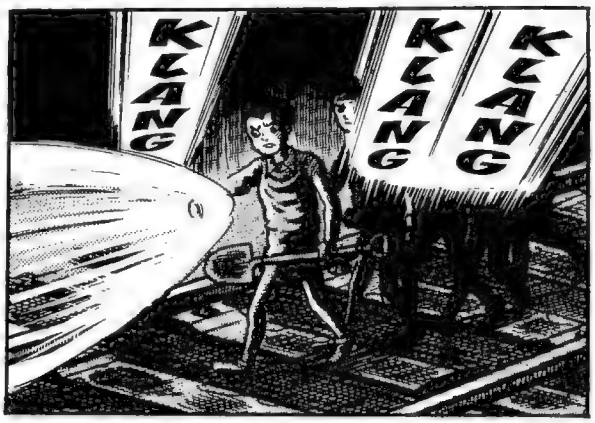

IT WAS REAL!
TH-THAT WAS NO ILLUSION!


THERE MIGHT BE PEOPLE THERE!
COME ON, LET'S FOLLOW IT!

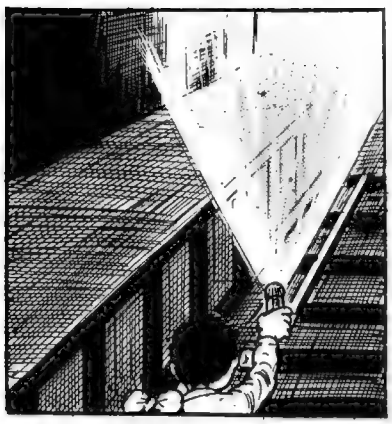

HOW COULD A TRAIN STILL BE RUNNING?

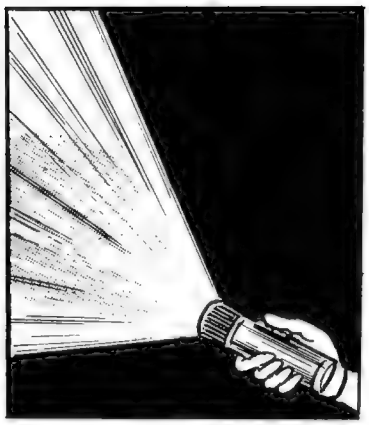

THE BATTERY'S DYING!




KLANG
KLANG
KLANG

THIS'LL LEAD US TO TOKYO.
WE NEED TO SAVE AS MUCH POWER AS WE CAN. I'LL SWITCH IT ON ONLY WHEN I HAVE TO. HOLD ON TO WHOEVER'S IN FRONT OF YOU AND WALK RIGHT BY THE RAIL.
OKAY, I'M SWITCHING IT OFF!
KLIK
IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE REACHED A STATION! WHERE ARE WE?

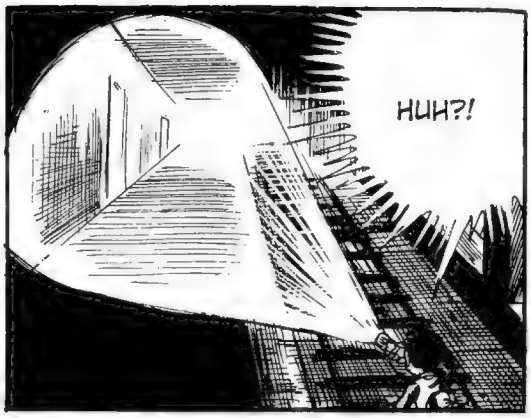




LET ME TURN ON THE FLASHLIGHT.

麹町
こうじ
まち

I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS PLACE!
THAT'S WEIRD!


HUH?!

*KOJIMACHI

I HEARD THERE WERE PLANS TO BUILD ONE AROUND HERE!

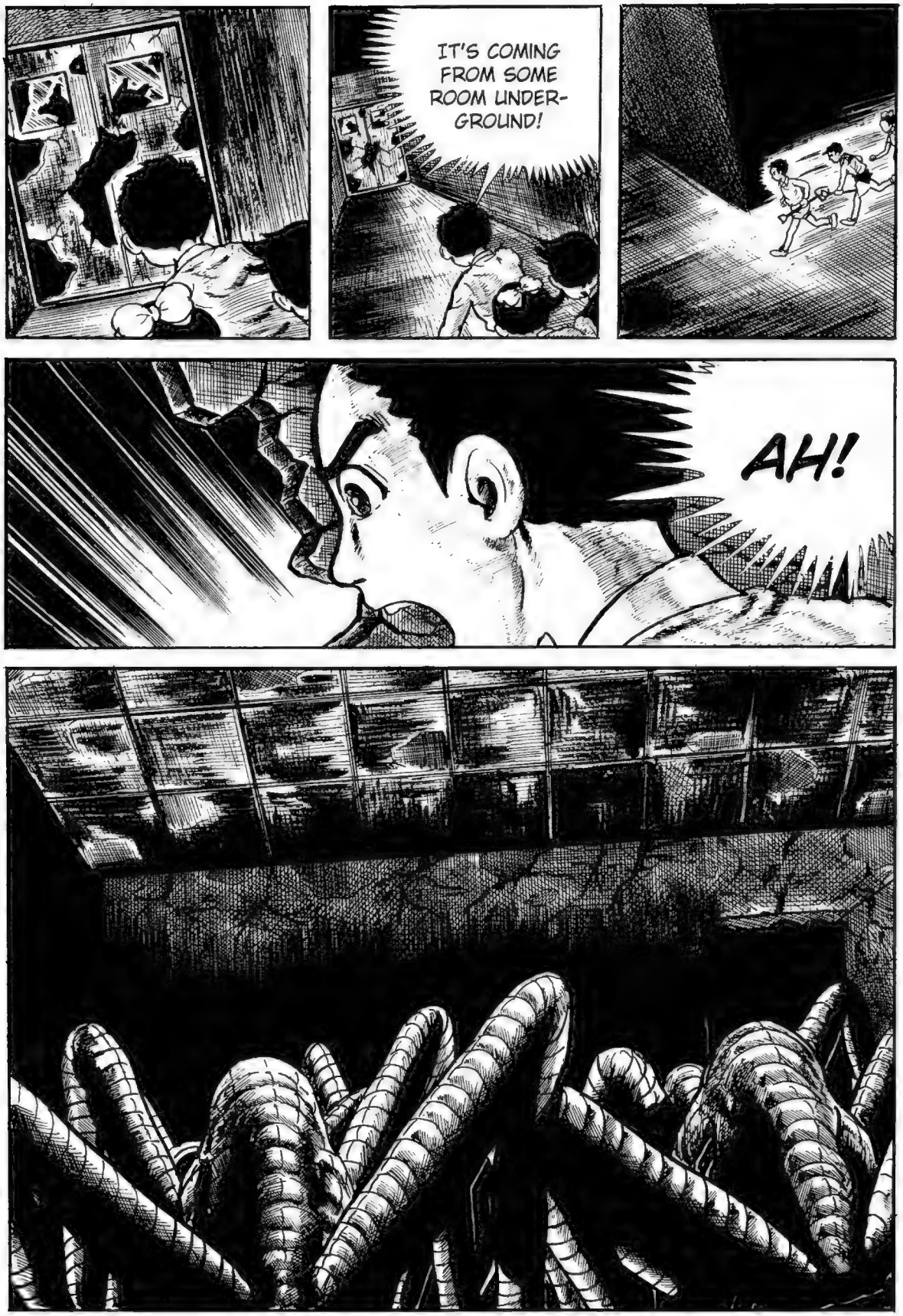
MAYBE IT WAS BUILT AFTER WE DISAPPEARED!

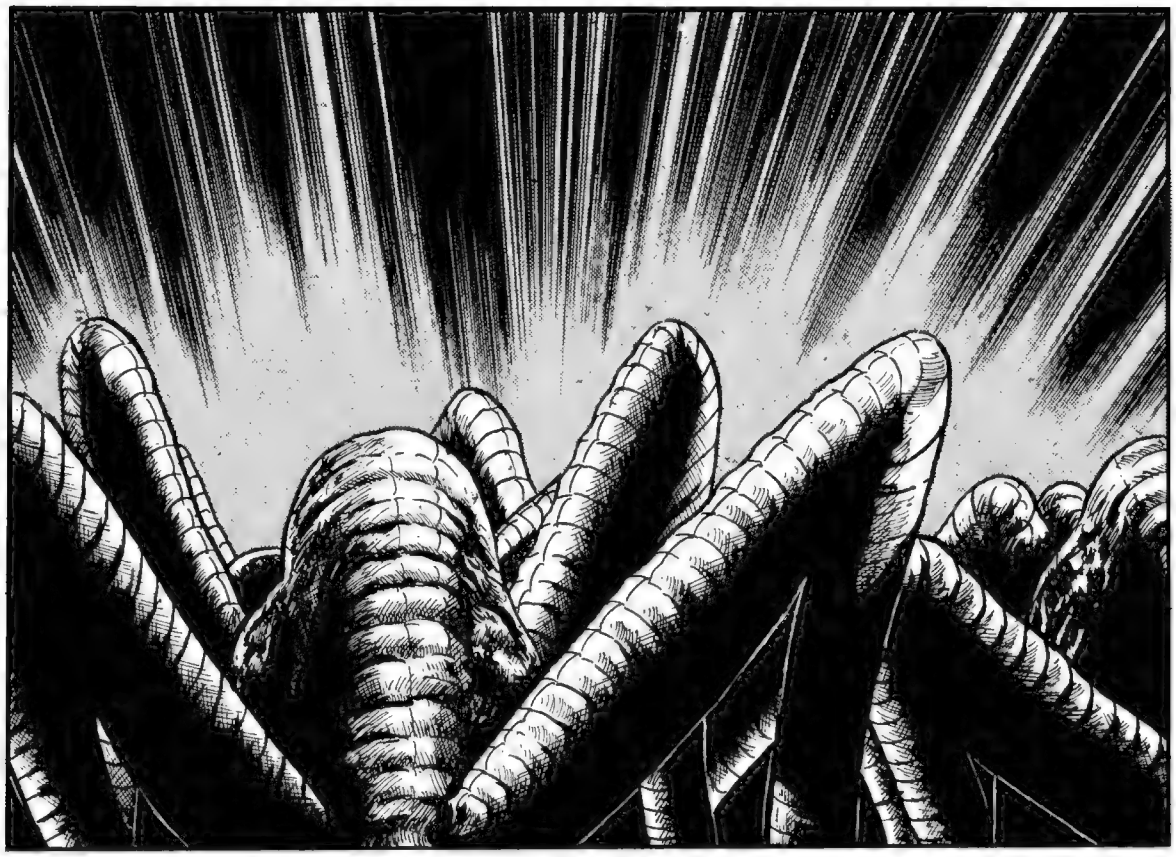
I-I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS STATION.

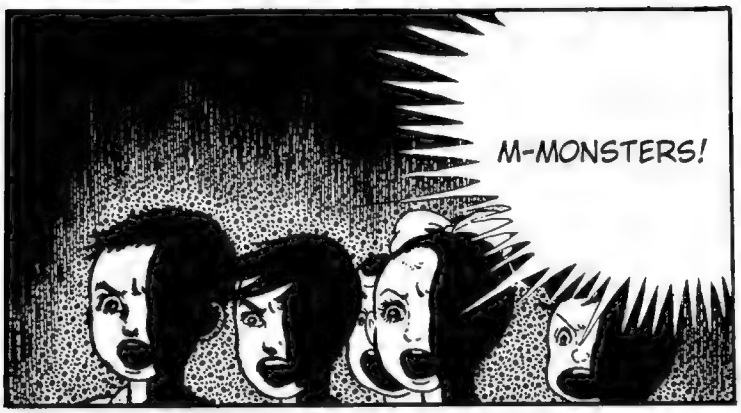
THERE MUST BE PEOPLE HERE!
OHH!

LIGHT!

IT'S THAT TRAIN!


IT'S COMING FROM SOME ROOM UNDER-GROUND!
AH!



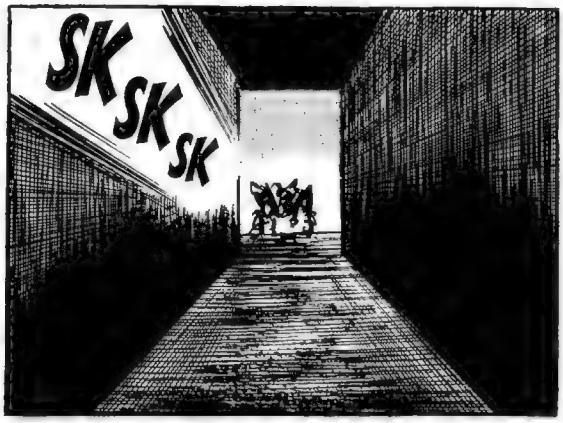

M-MONSTERS!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

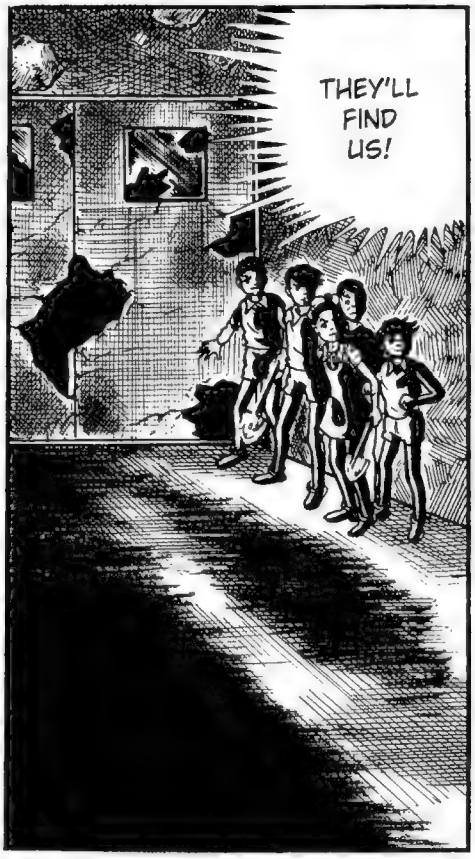
GASP!

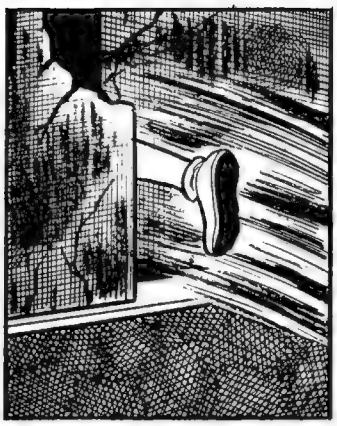
SK SK SK
THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY TOO!

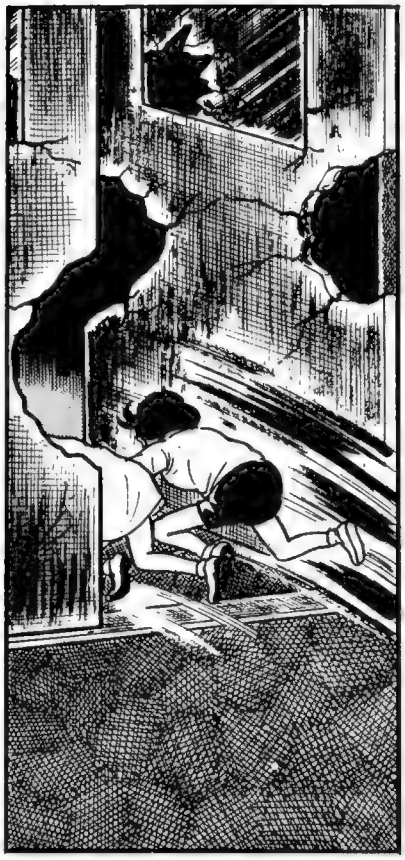
H-HOLD ON!

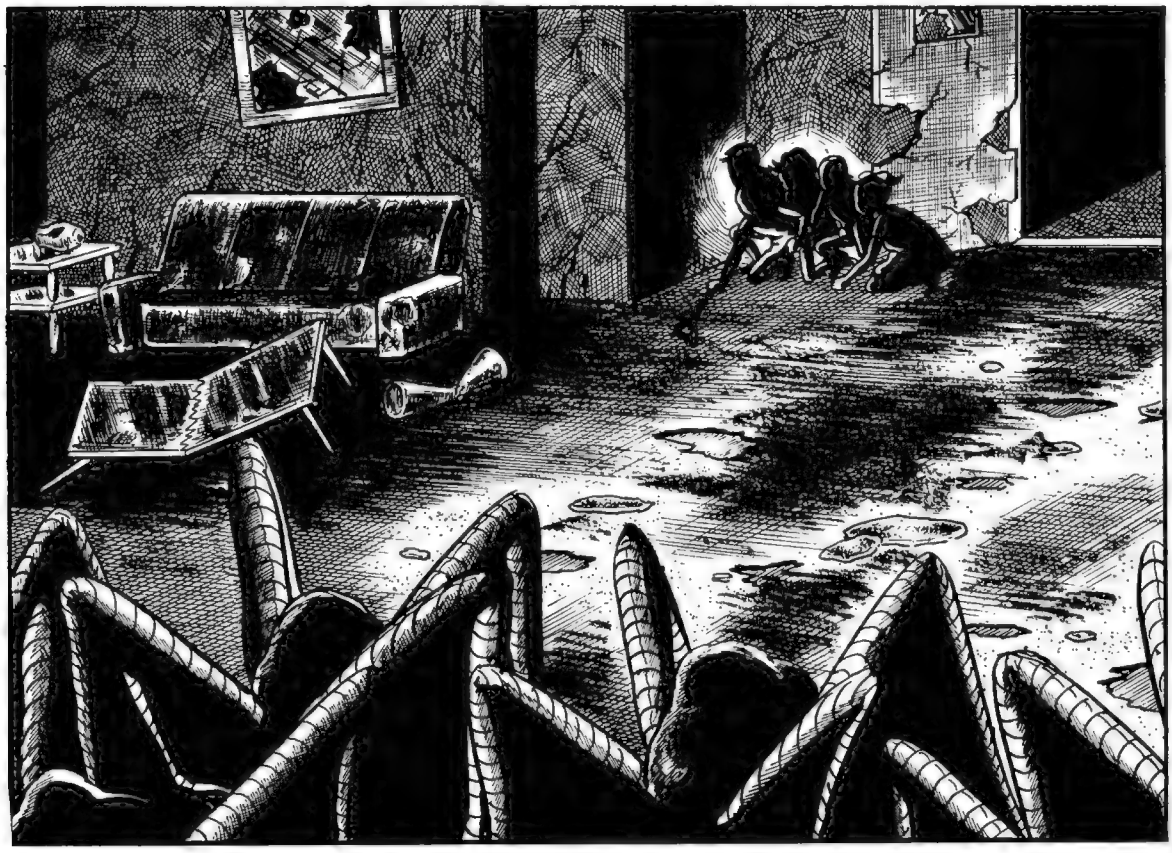

SK SK SK

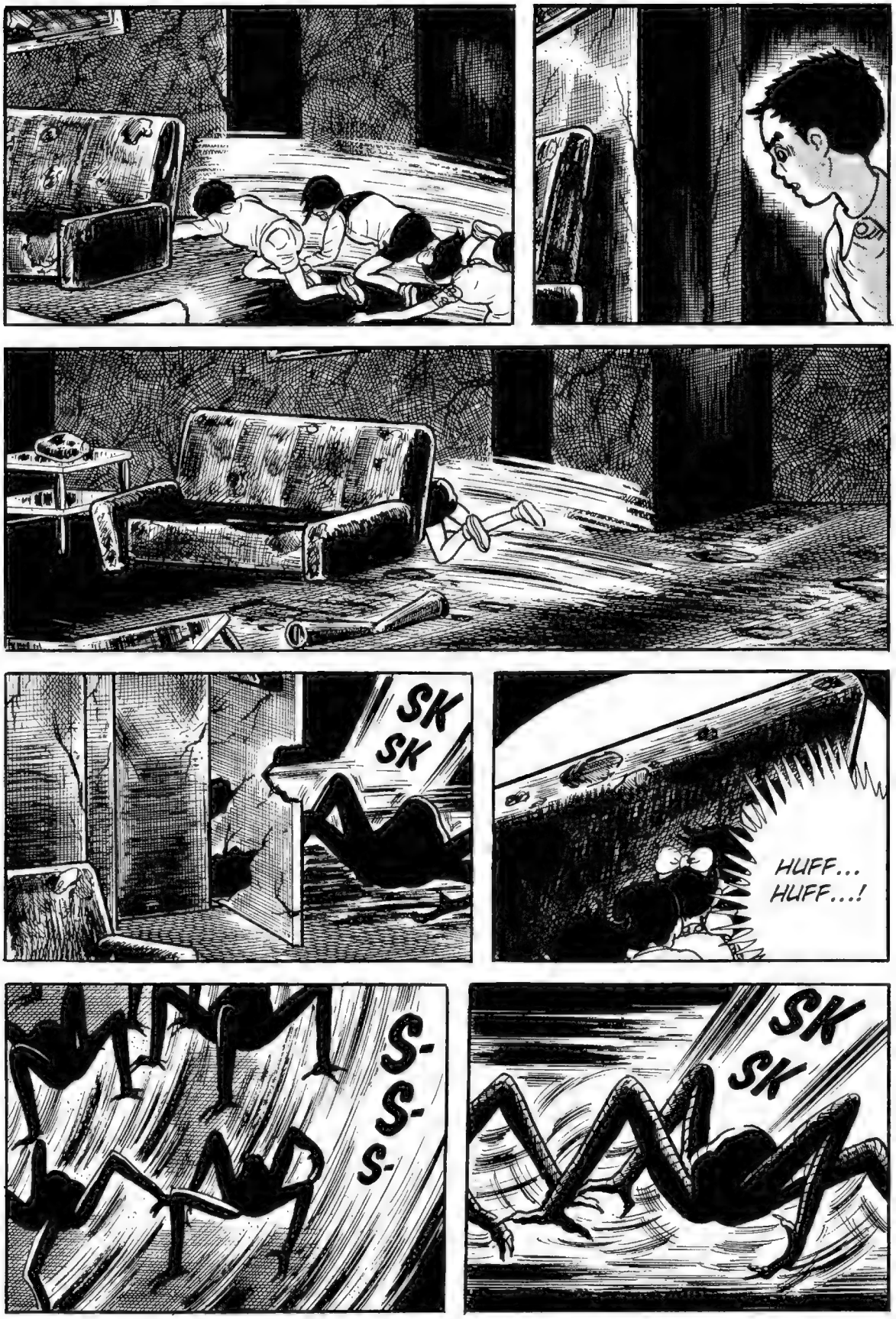
SK SK SK

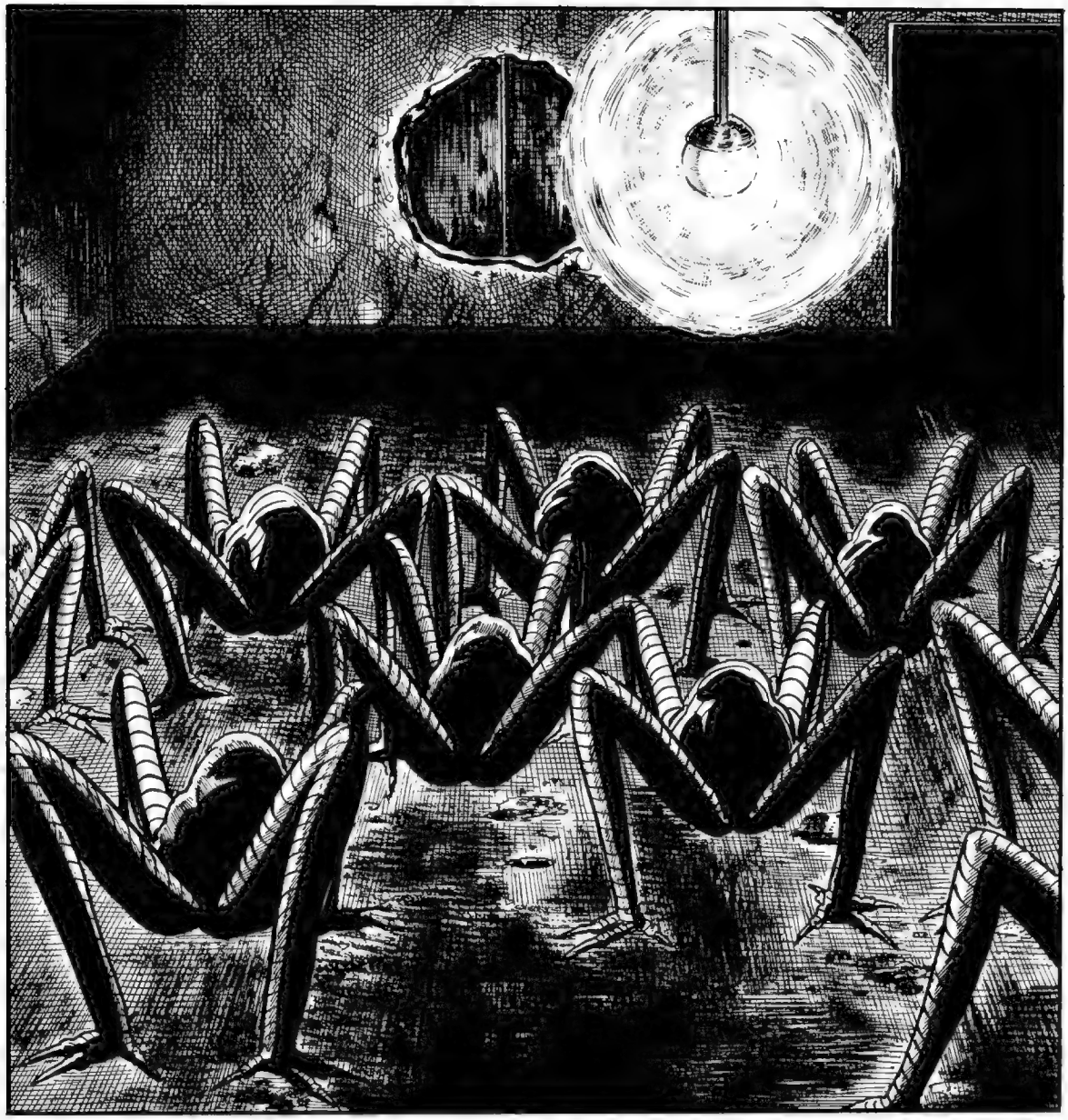

THEY'LL FIND US!

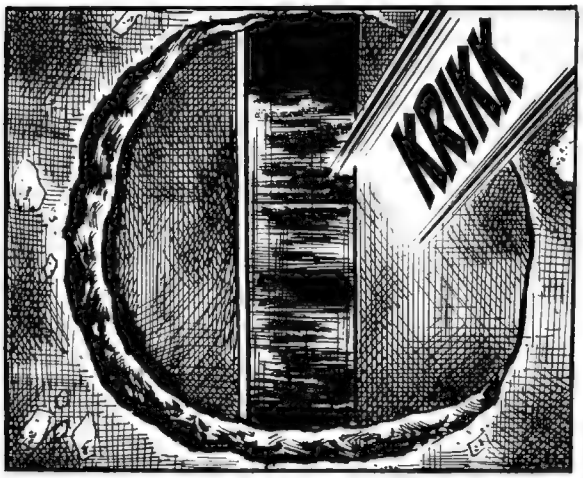


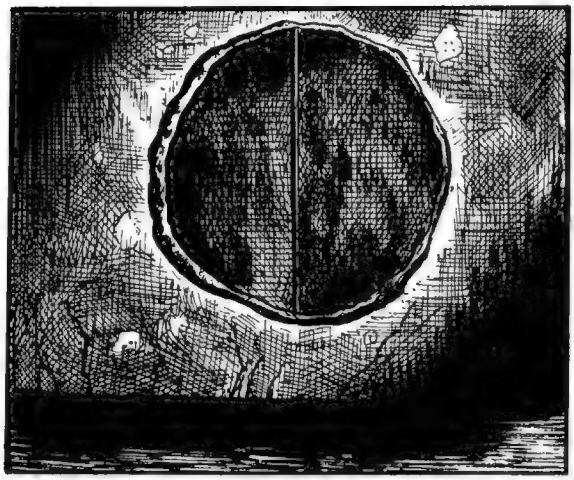


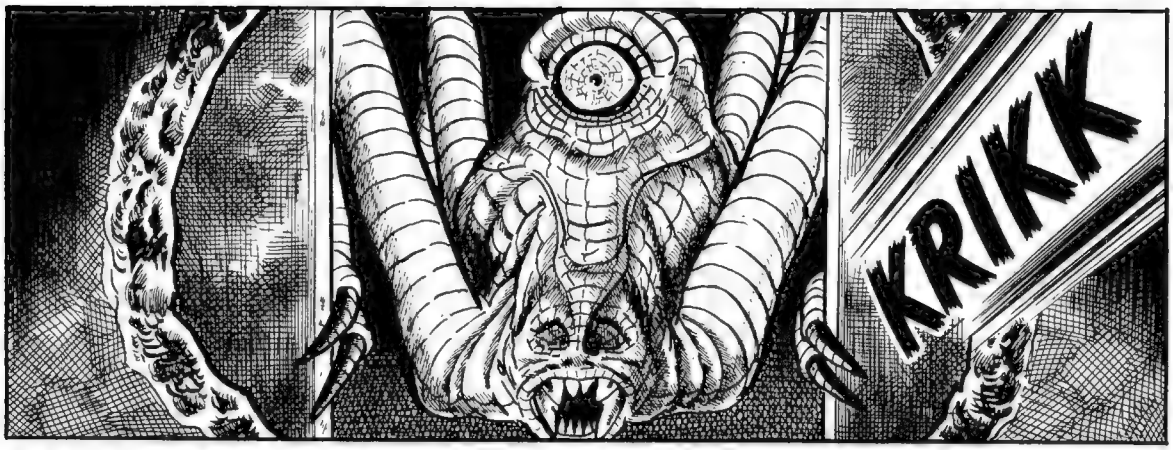


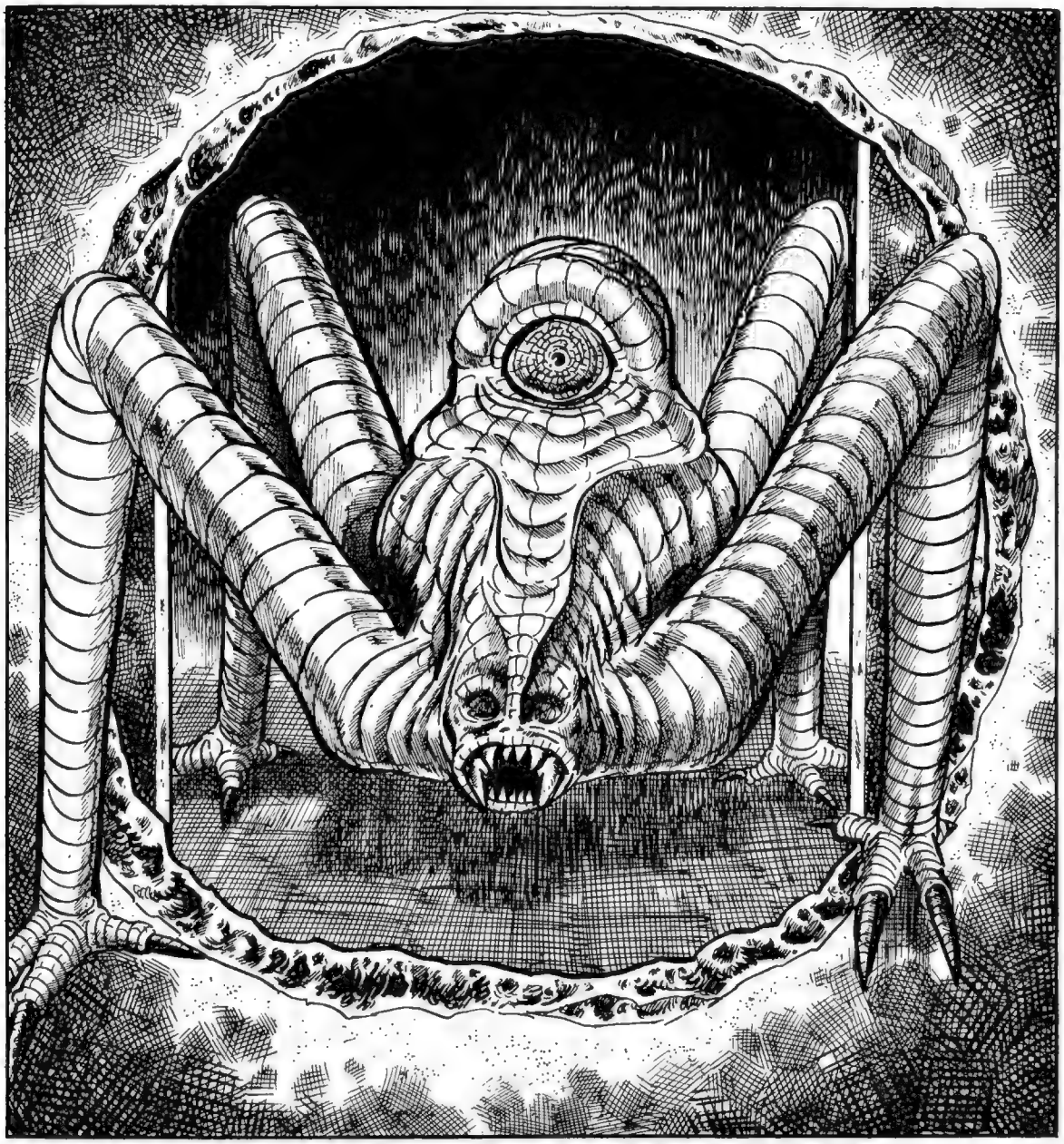

SK
SK
HUFF...
HUFF...!
S-
S-
S-
SK
SK

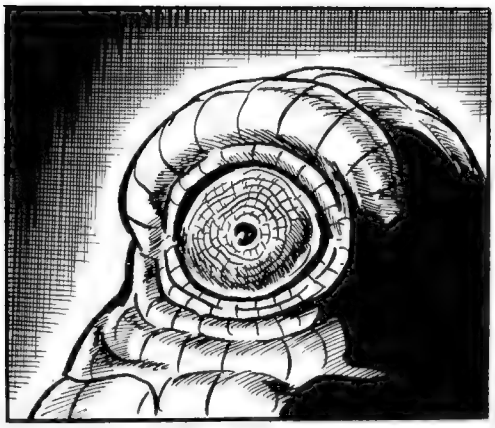


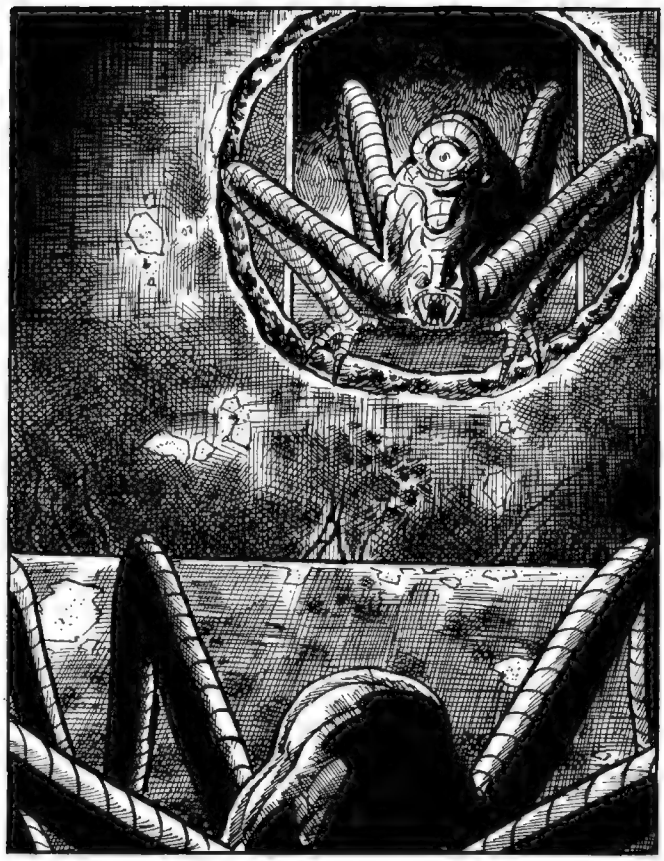

KRIKK



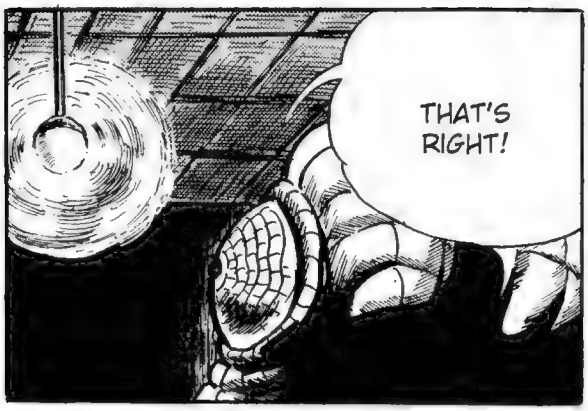

KRIKK



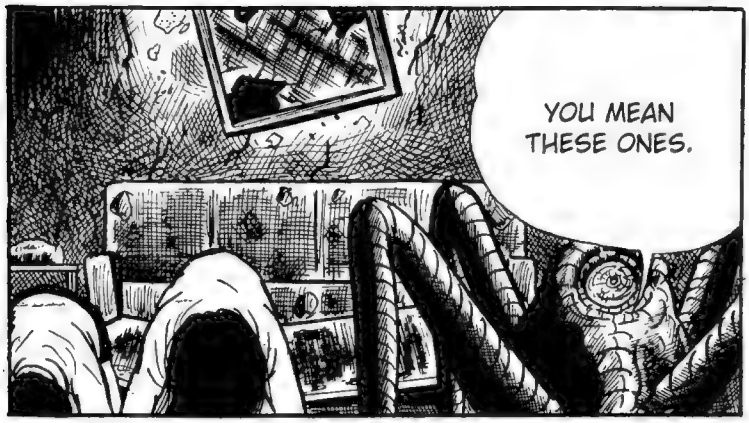


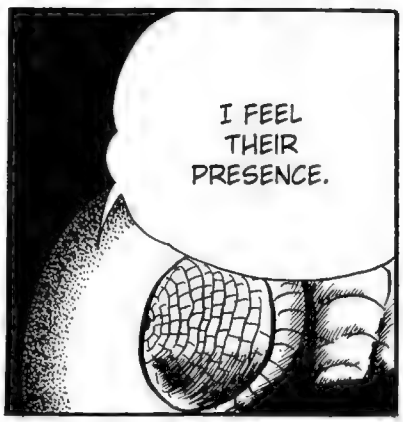


THERE ARE HUMANS IN THIS ROOM.


THAT'S RIGHT!

HUMANS?


YOU MEAN THESE ONES.


I FEEL THEIR PRESENCE.

SHH!

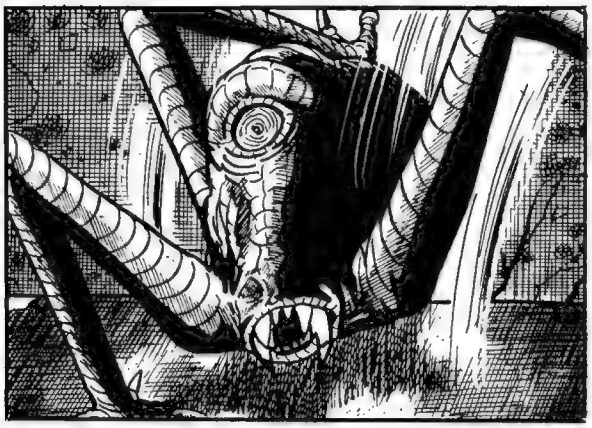
IT'S YOSHIKAWA, OTSUKI AND THE OTHERS!

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THEM. SOON THEY'LL BE JUST LIKE US.

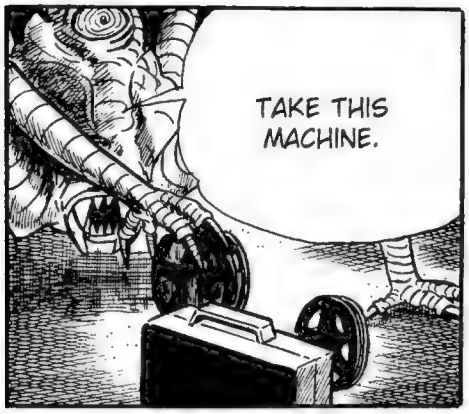
LOOK!

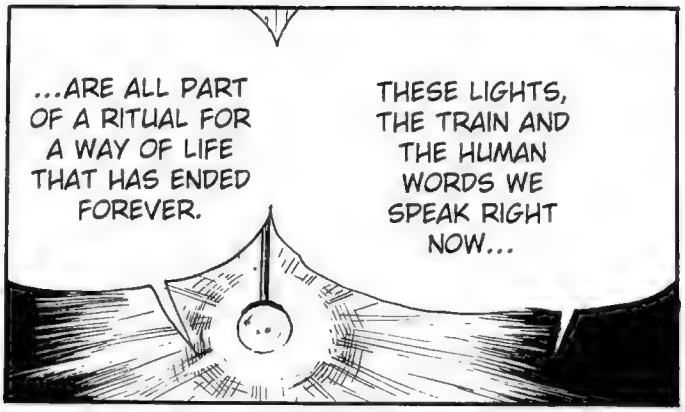
THEY'RE FROM THAT SCHOOL THAT APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE IN THE DESERT.

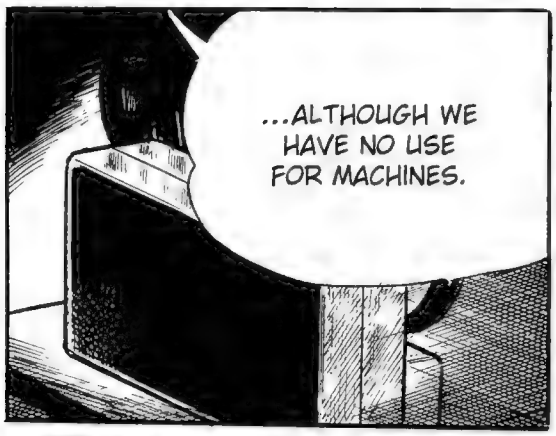
RIP
THEY'RE STILL PART HUMAN, THOUGH.
IT'S TURNING INTO AN EYE.
I SEE...

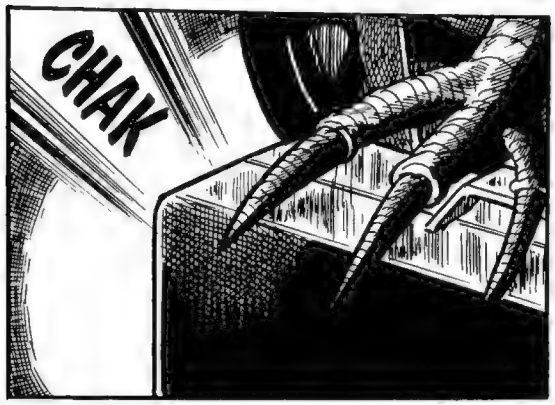


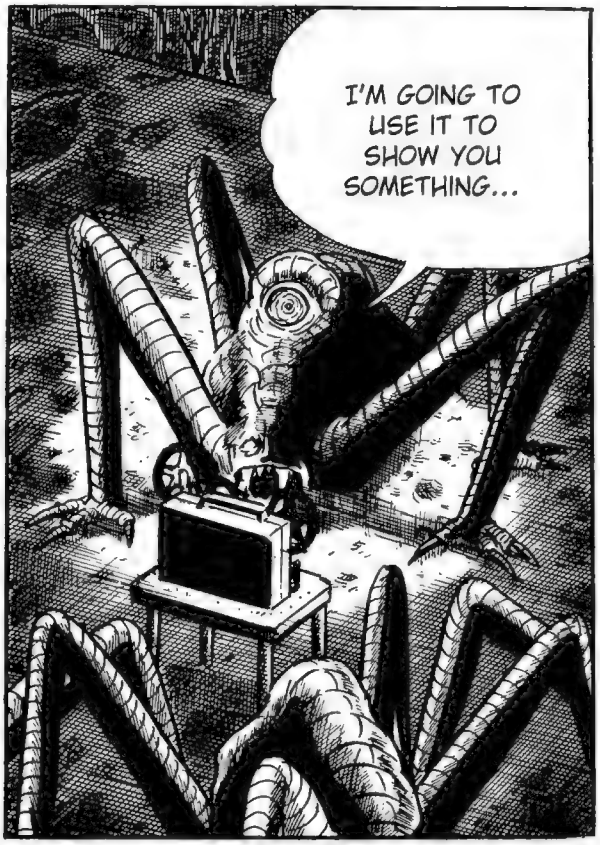
YOU KNOW WHY WE HAVE GATHERED HERE TODAY...

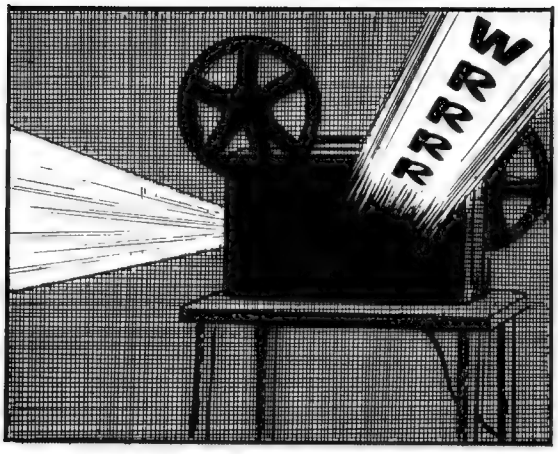

TAKE THIS MACHINE.


...ARE ALL PART OF A RITUAL FOR A WAY OF LIFE THAT HAS ENDED FOREVER.
THESE LIGHTS, THE TRAIN AND THE HUMAN WORDS WE SPEAK RIGHT NOW...

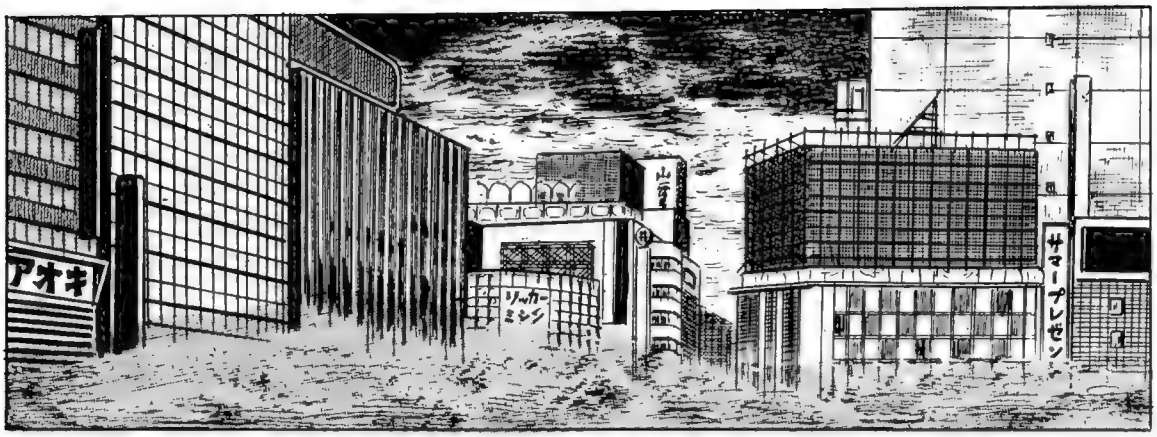

...ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO USE FOR MACHINES.

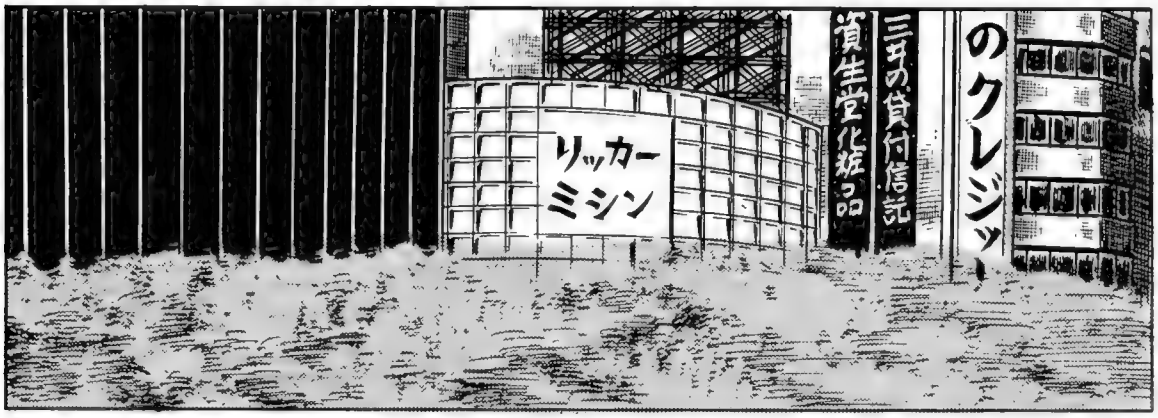

CHAK

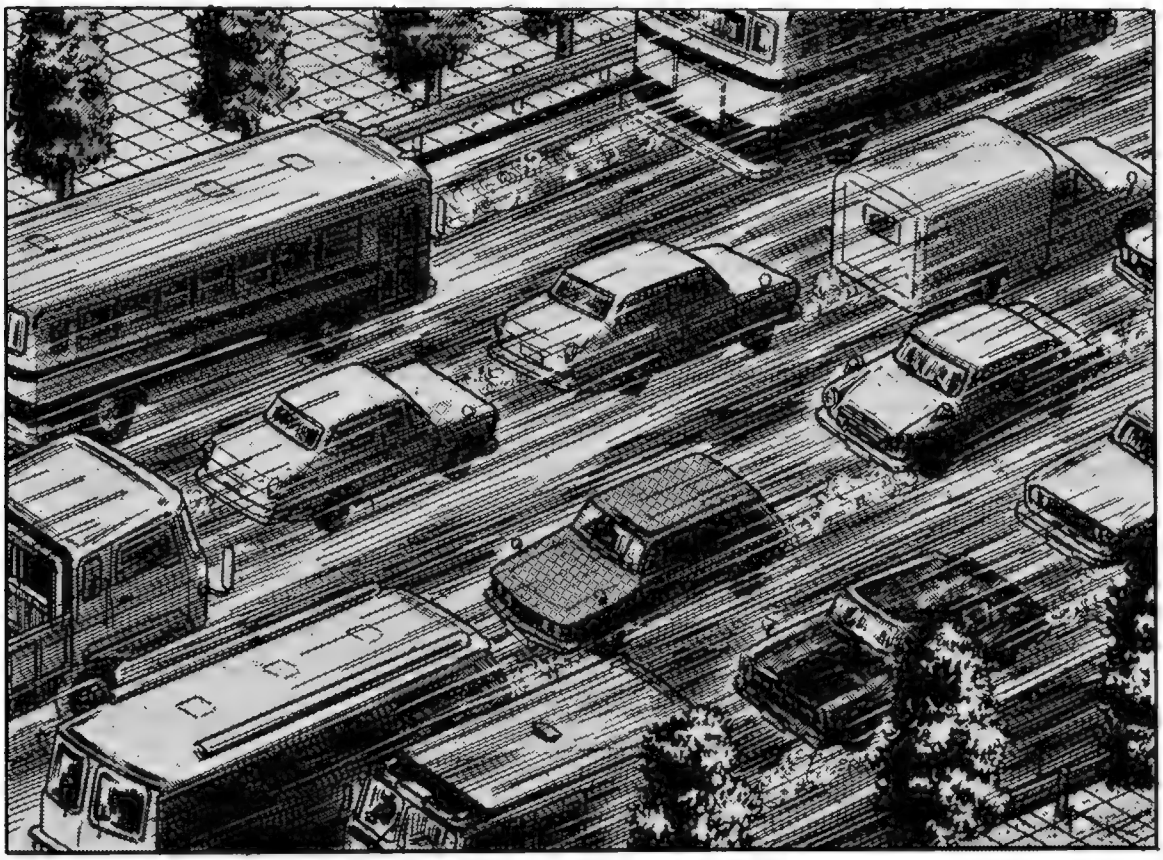

I'M GOING TO USE IT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING...

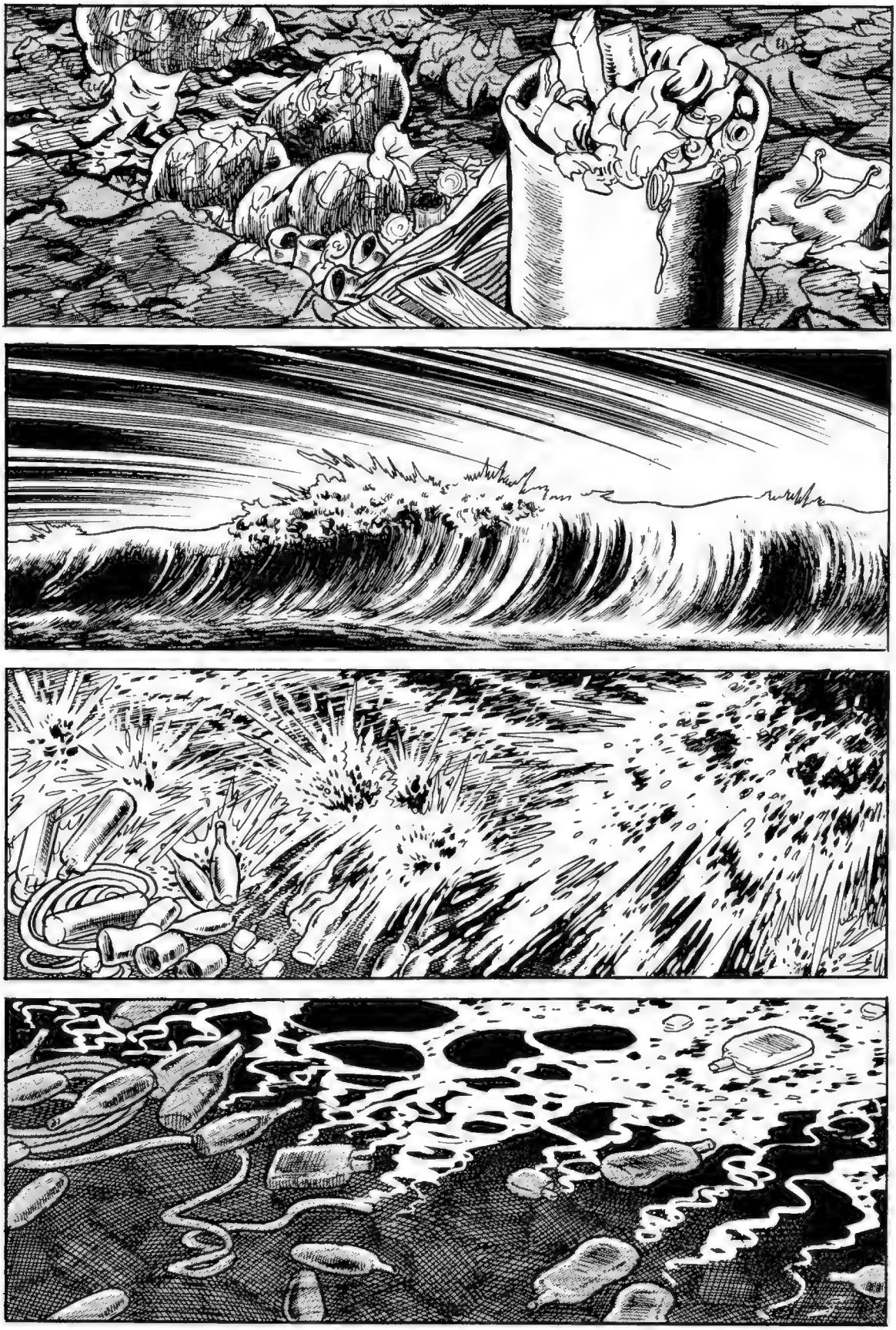


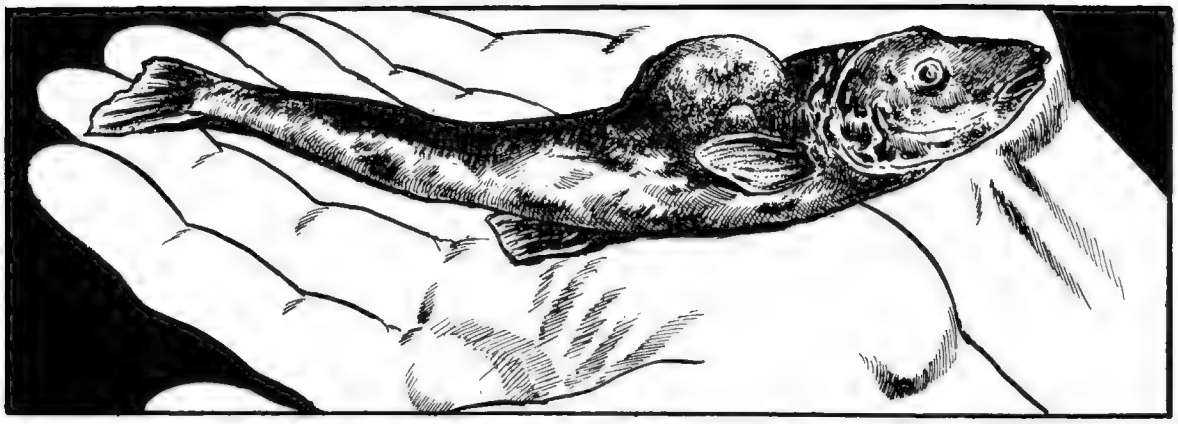
CHAPTER 31: THE RECORD OF THE END

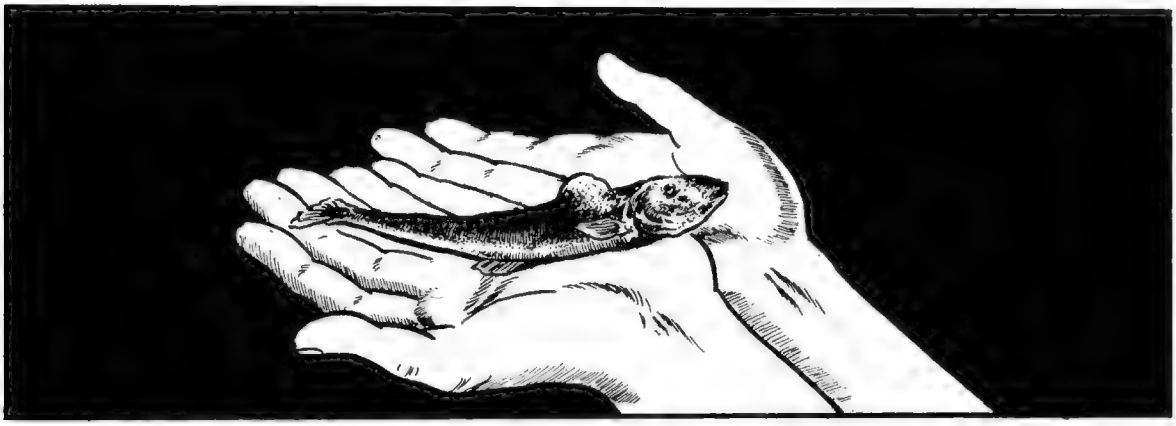

アオキ
リッカーミシン
サマープレゼン

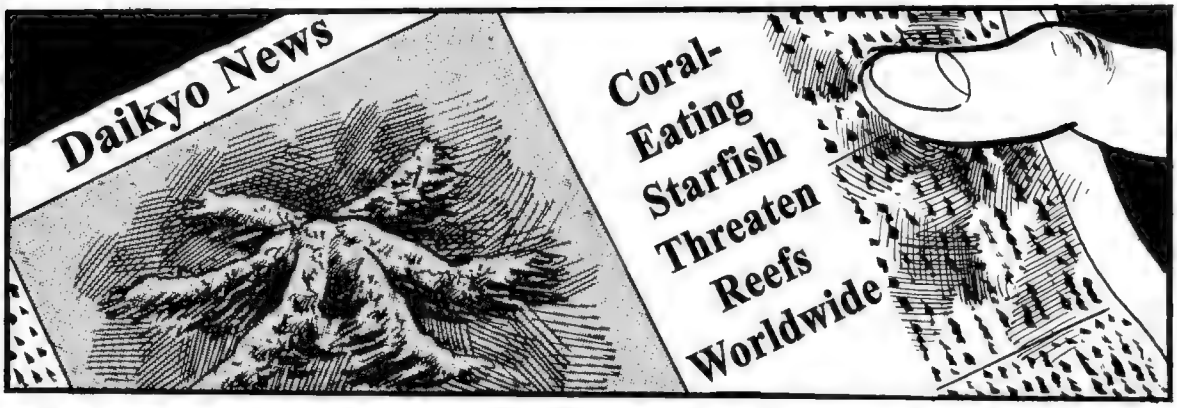

のクレジッ
三年の貸付信託
資生堂化粧品
リッカーミシン





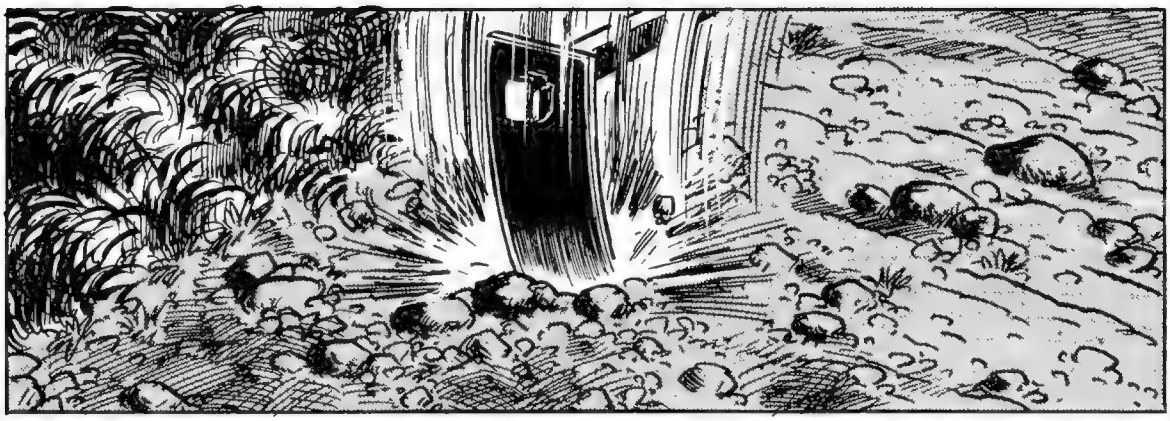


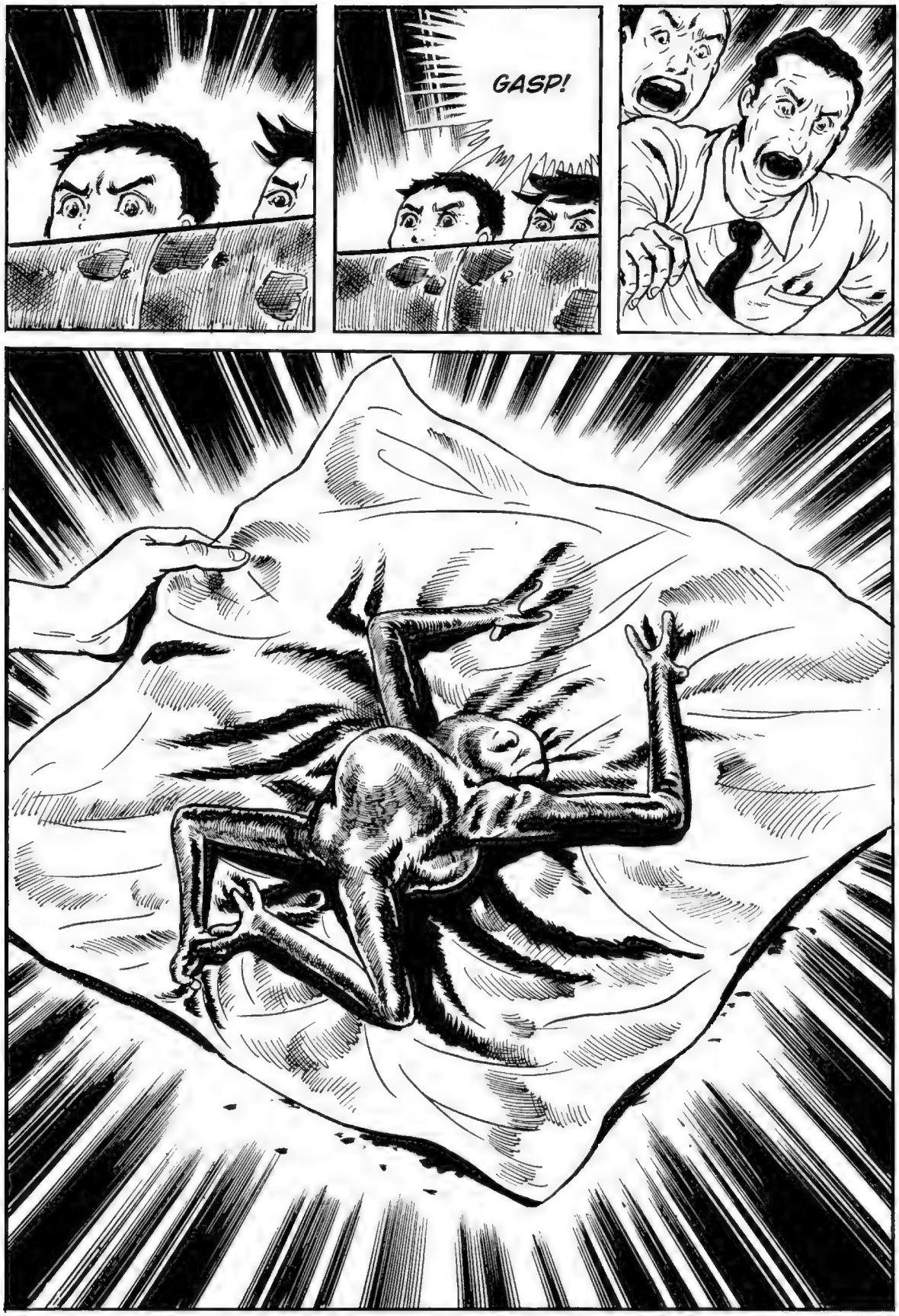



Daikyo News
Coral-Eating Starfish Threaten Reefs Worldwide

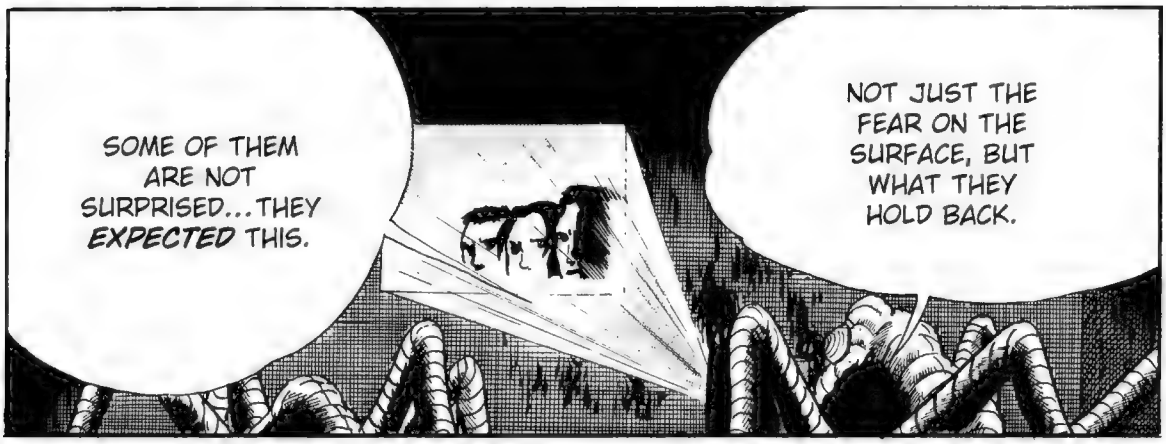
Another Mother Murders Her Baby!

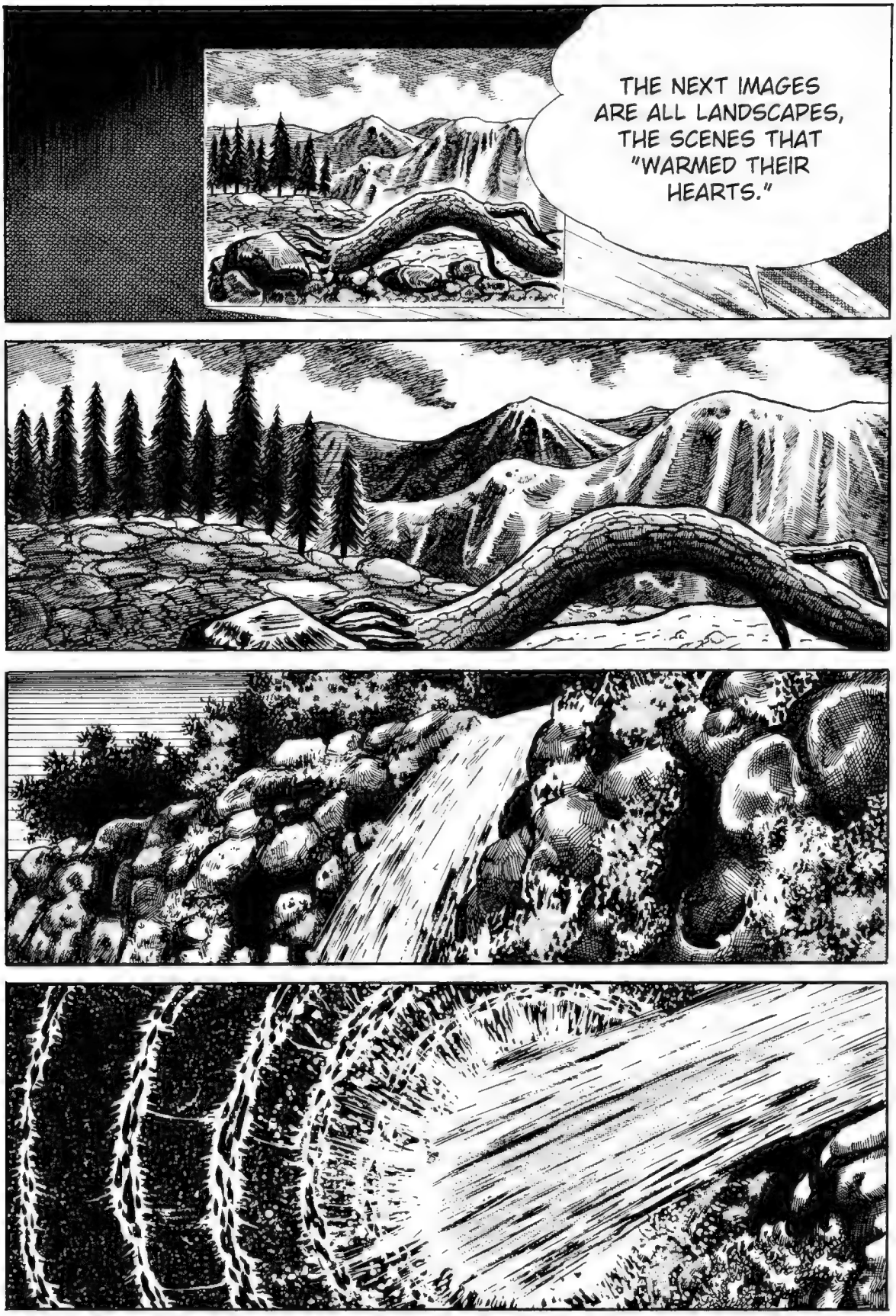
SEE WHAT THIS MAN DIGS UP.
WATCH THIS NEXT SCENE CAREFULLY.




GASP!

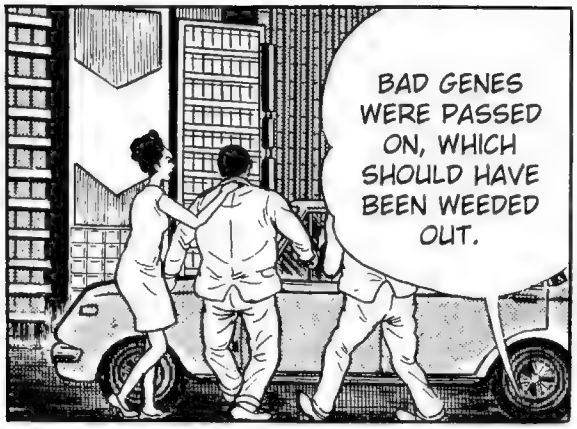
LOOK AT THEIR FACES.


SOME OF THEM ARE NOT SURPRISED...THEY *EXPECTED* THIS.
NOT JUST THE FEAR ON THE SURFACE, BUT WHAT THEY HOLD BACK.

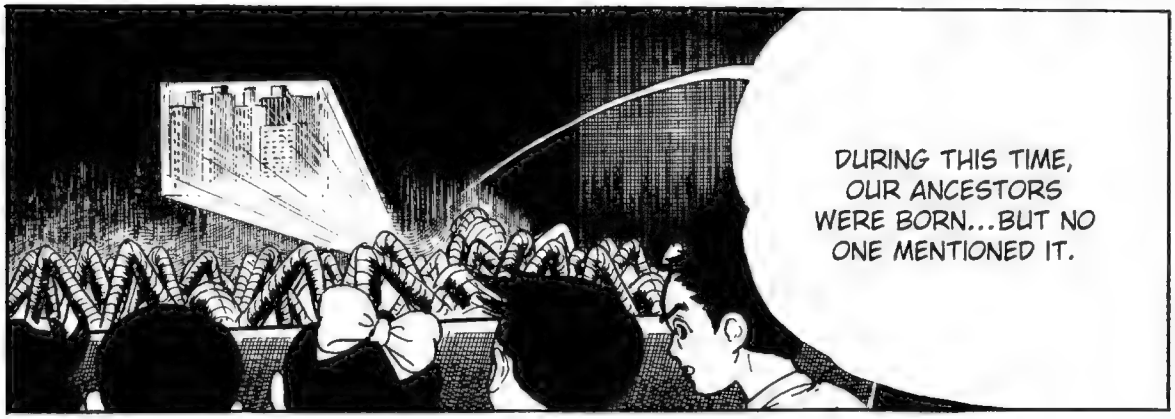

THE NEXT IMAGES ARE ALL LANDSCAPES, THE SCENES THAT "WARMED THEIR HEARTS."

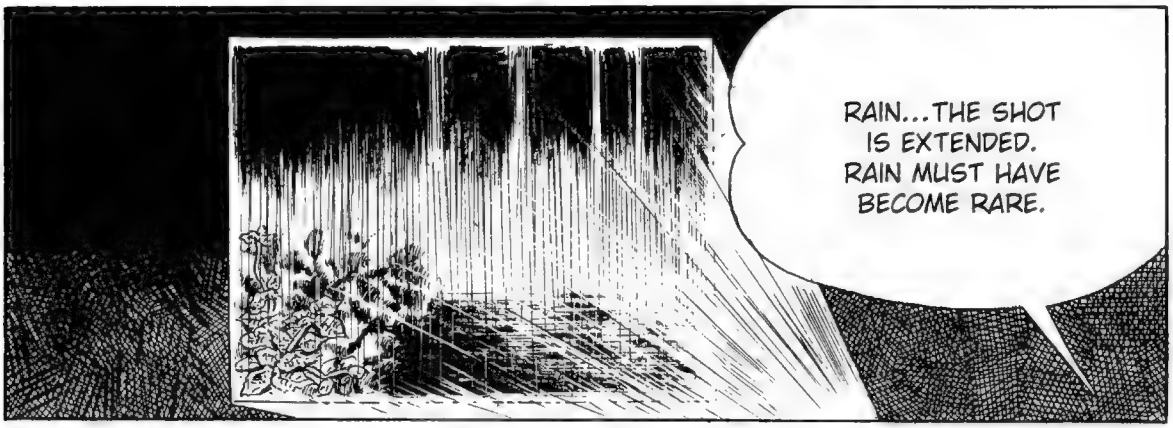
BUT WERE THEY REALLY PART OF NATURE?
EVEN FLOWERS...

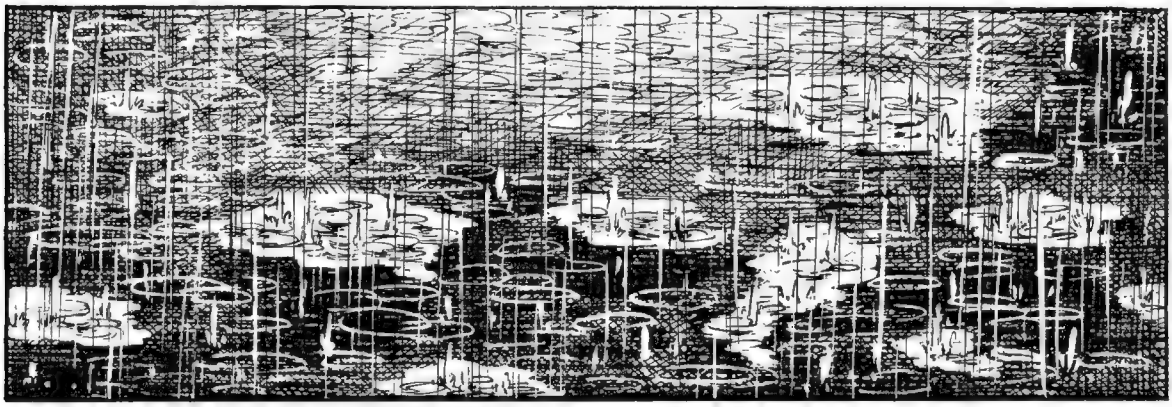
SEE HOW THEIR FALSE WORLD GREW AND GREW FALSER. THEIR CIVILIZATION WAS BASED ON IMITATING NATURE...CREATING *ILLUSIONS.* EVERYTHING FAKE REPLACED WHAT WAS REAL.
SUPER
HOLOGRAPHIC FLOWERS
© SANY CORP.
Main Hospital
THIS LED TO THEIR EXTINCTION!
THEY EVEN FOUND A CURE FOR CANCER...

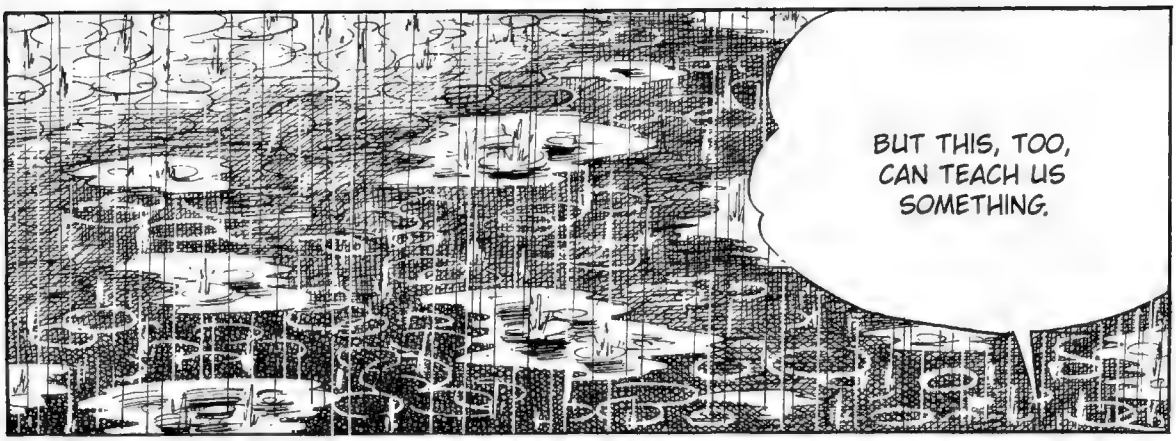

BAD GENES WERE PASSED ON, WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN WEEDED OUT.

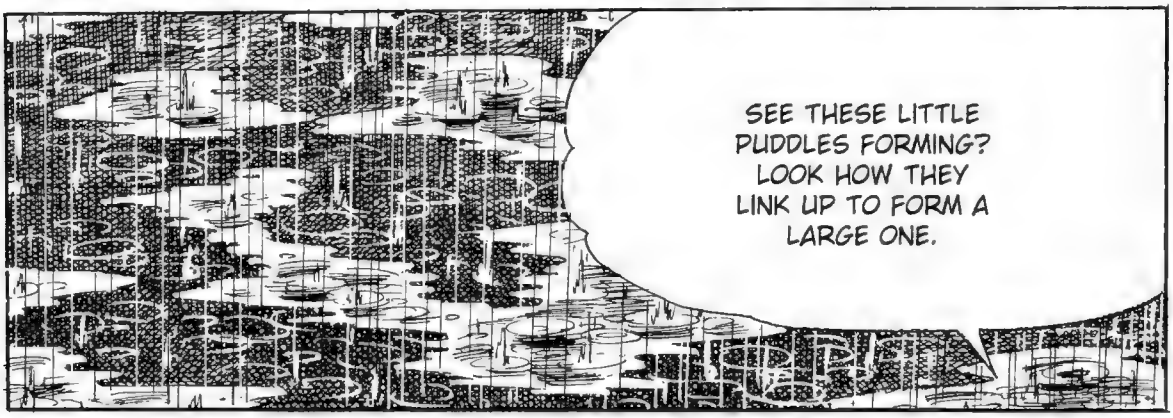
...THEY LIVED WITHOUT RESTRAINT.
WITH NO FEAR OF PAIN OR DISEASE...


DURING THIS TIME, OUR ANCESTORS WERE BORN...BUT NO ONE MENTIONED IT.

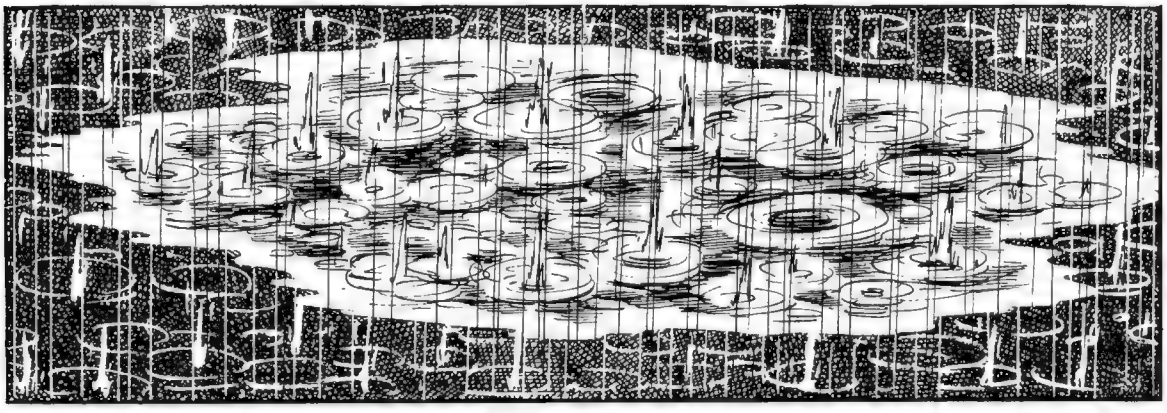

RAIN...THE SHOT IS EXTENDED. RAIN MUST HAVE BECOME RARE.

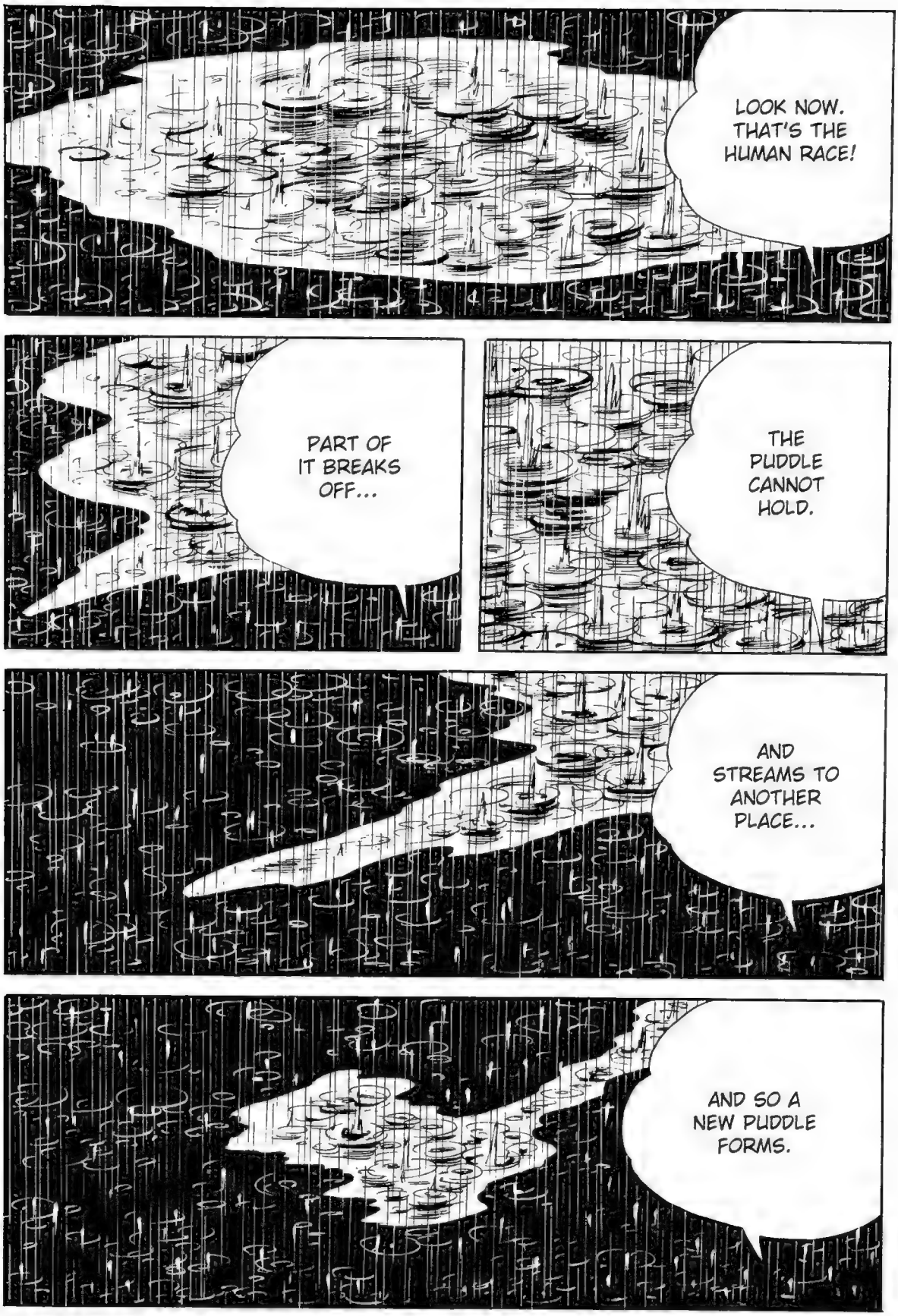


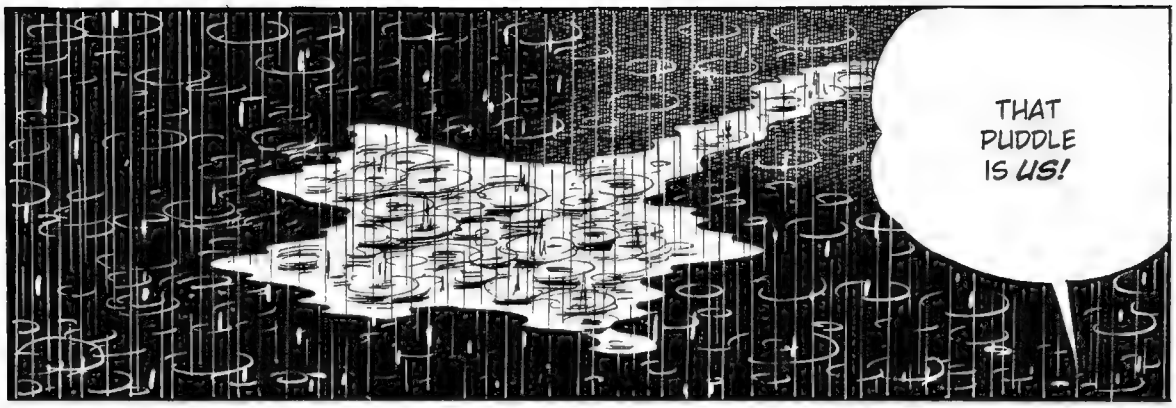

BUT THIS, TOO, CAN TEACH US SOMETHING.

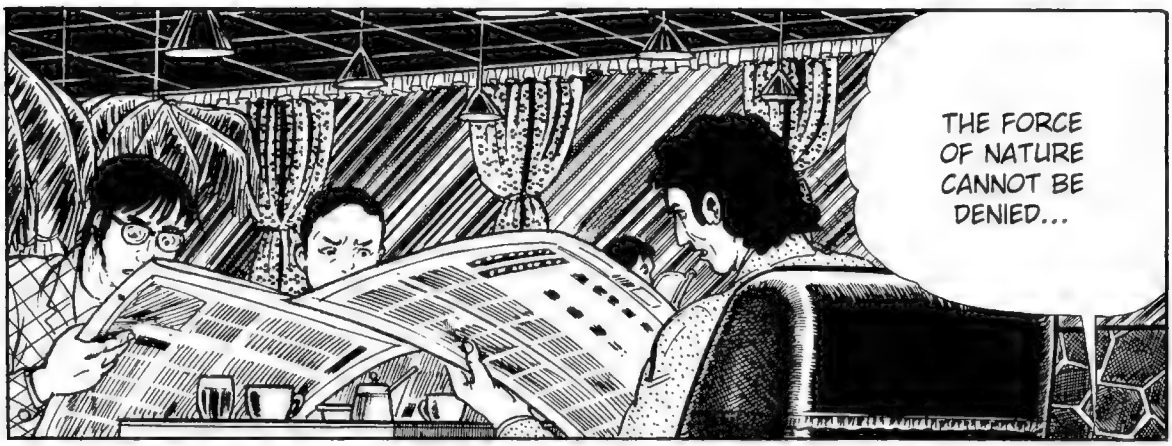

SEE THESE LITTLE PUDDLES FORMING? LOOK HOW THEY LINK UP TO FORM A LARGE ONE.

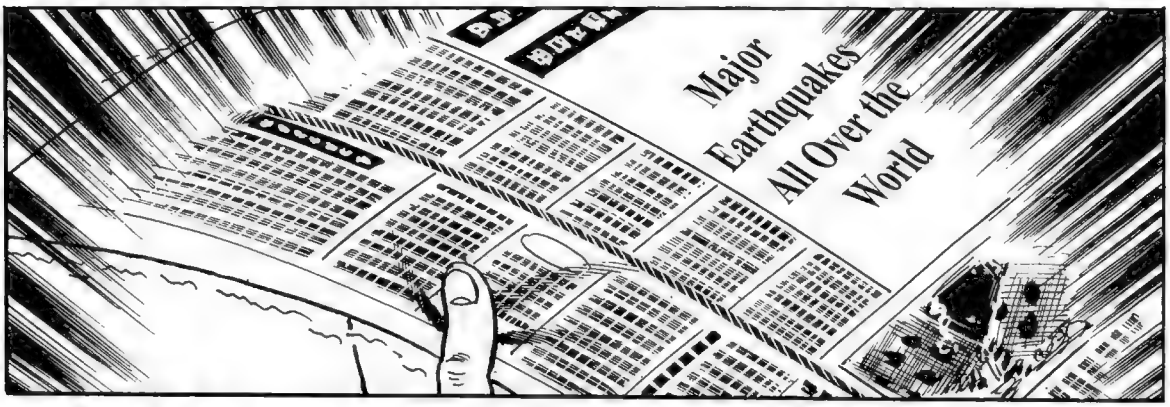
WHAT IS THE HUMAN RACE...? IT WILL ONLY KNOW THE MOMENT ITS PUDDLE BECOMES FULL.



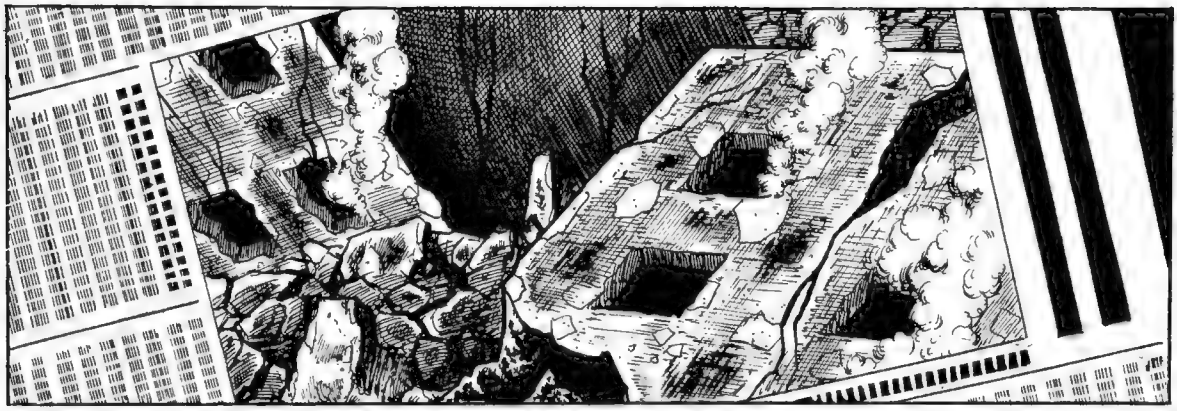

LOOK NOW. THAT'S THE HUMAN RACE!
PART OF IT BREAKS OFF...
THE PUDDLE CANNOT HOLD.
AND STREAMS TO ANOTHER PLACE...
AND SO A NEW PUDDLE FORMS.


THAT PUDDLE IS *US!*

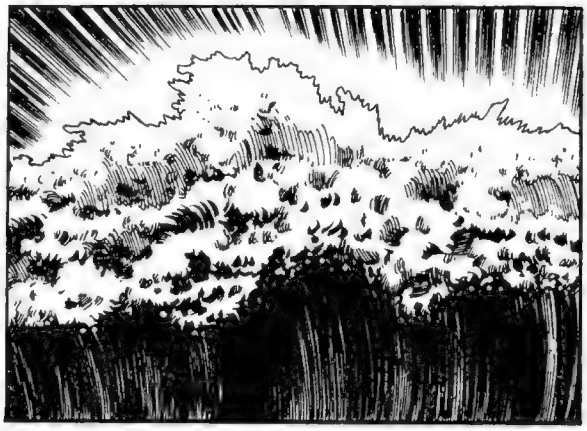

THE FORCE OF NATURE CANNOT BE DENIED...

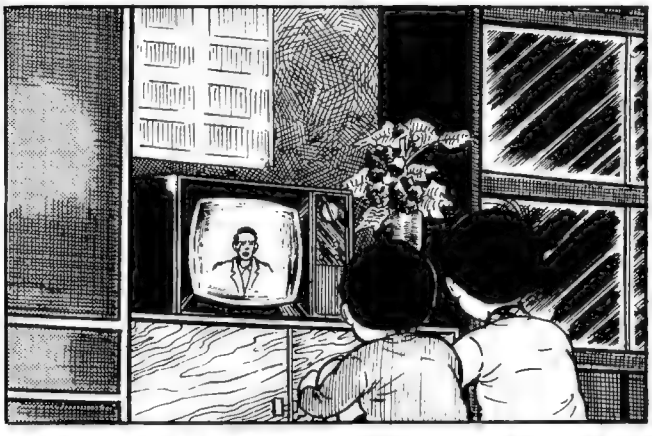

Major Earthquakes All Over the World

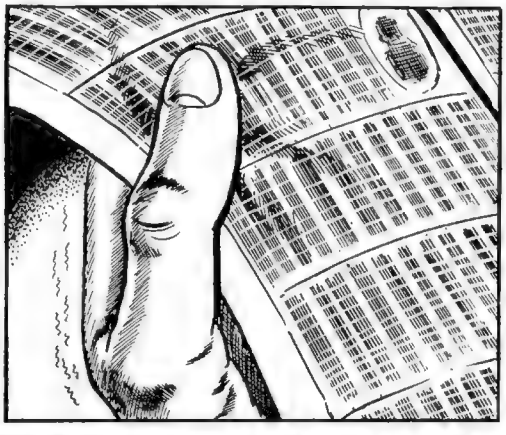
Major Earthquakes All Over the World

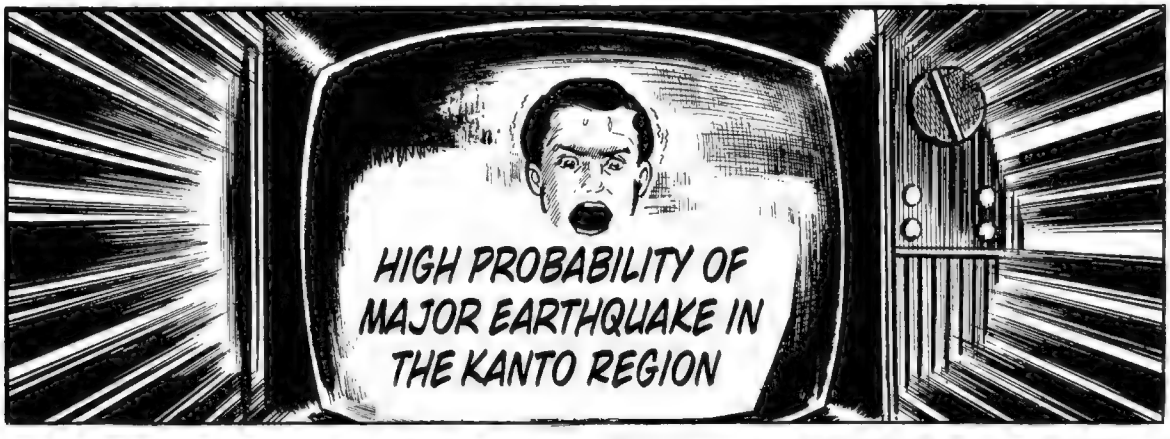


Tsunamis Decimate the Pacific Rim

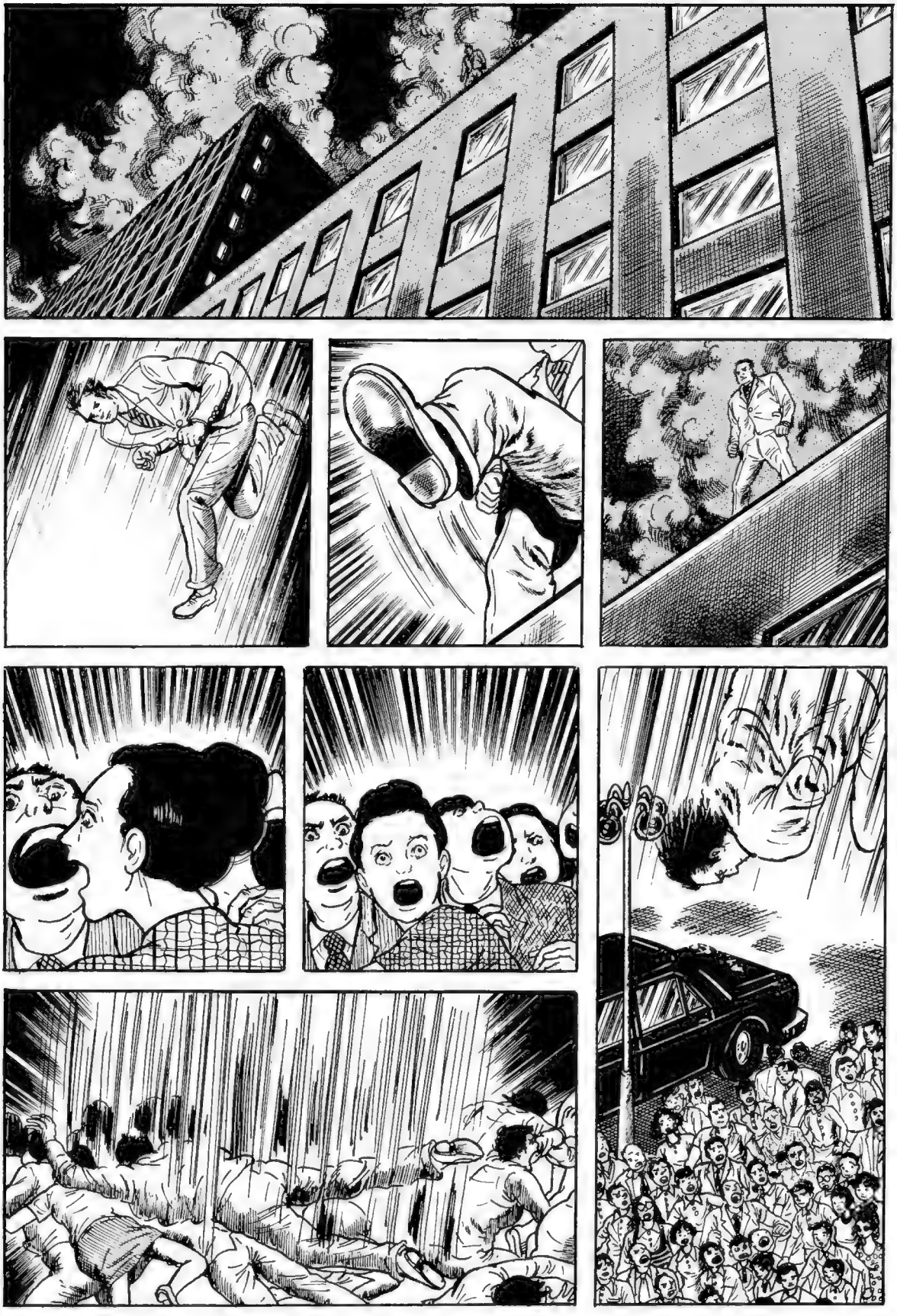




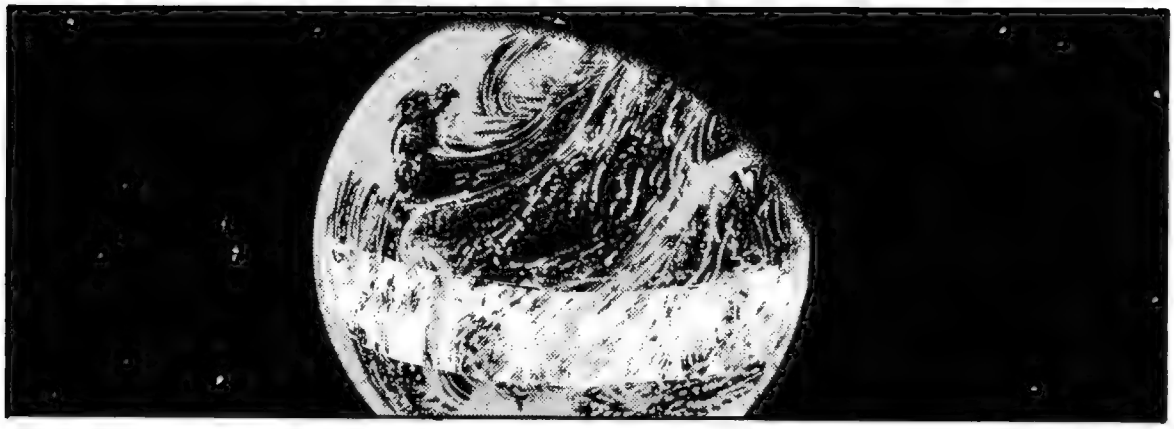


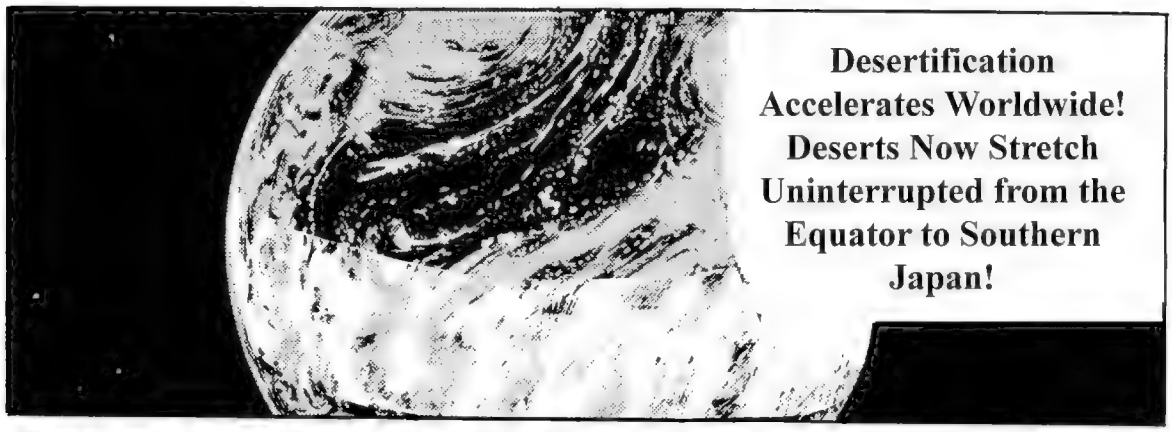


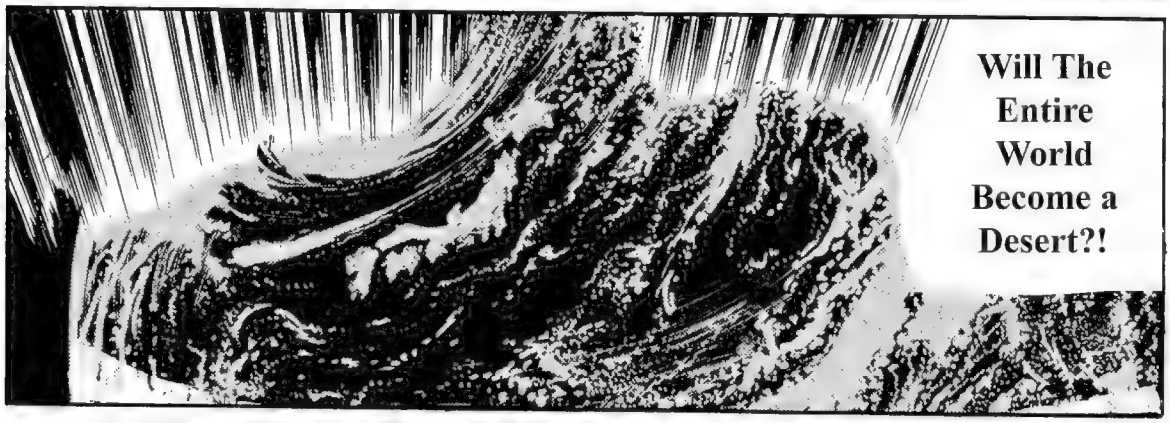
HIGH PROBABILITY OF MAJOR EARTHQUAKE IN THE KANTO REGION



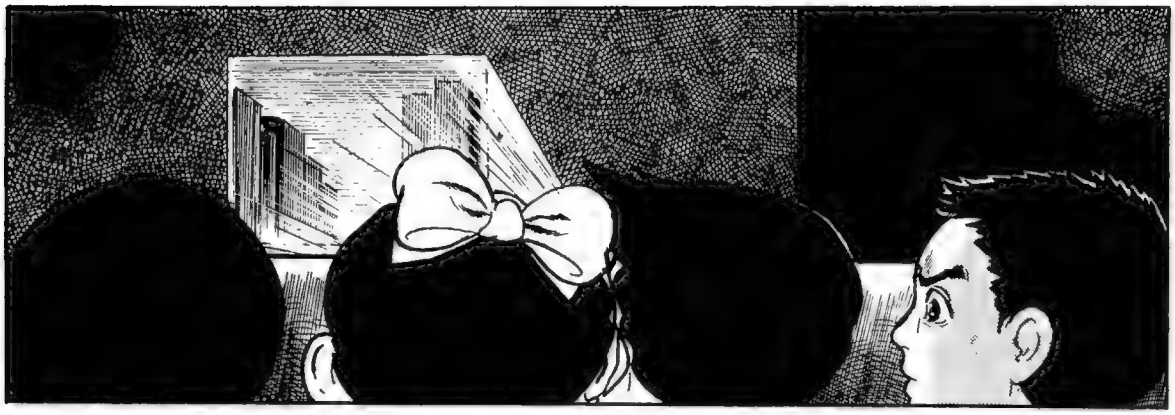
Experts Predict Ground-water Crisis!
Rapid Deforestation Worsens Water Shortages!
Rash of Suicides!
Elderly Abandoned At Growing Rate!
GROCER
Food Shortage Leads to Riots!
No More Typhoons!
Unnatural Tides Could Be Sign of Change in Ocean Currents!

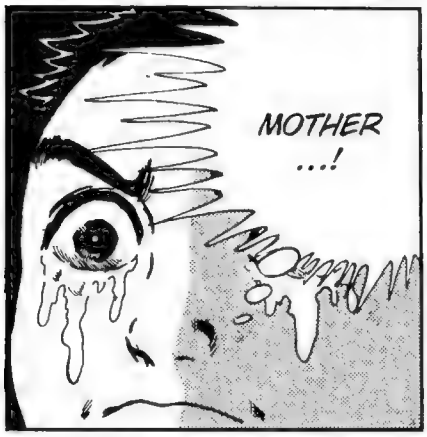


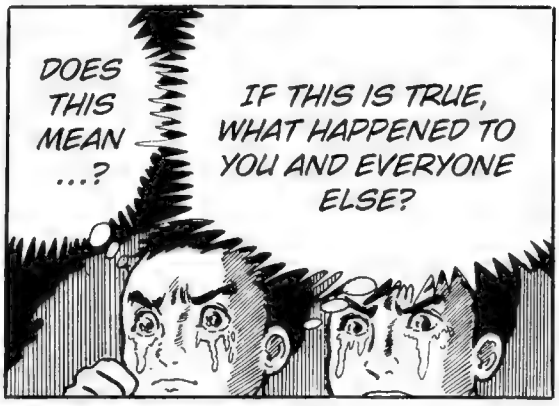

Desertification Accelerates Worldwide! Deserts Now Stretch Uninterrupted from the Equator to Southern Japan!

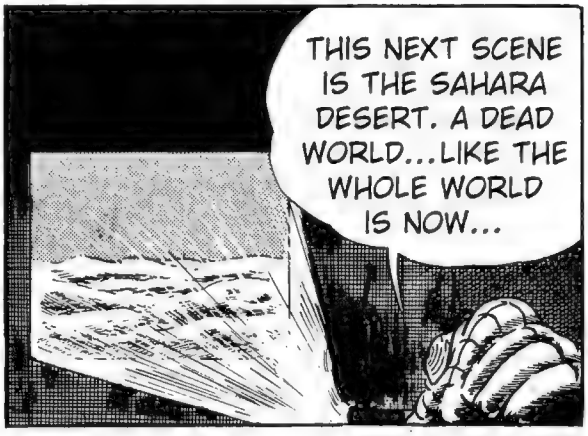

Will The Entire World Become a Desert?!

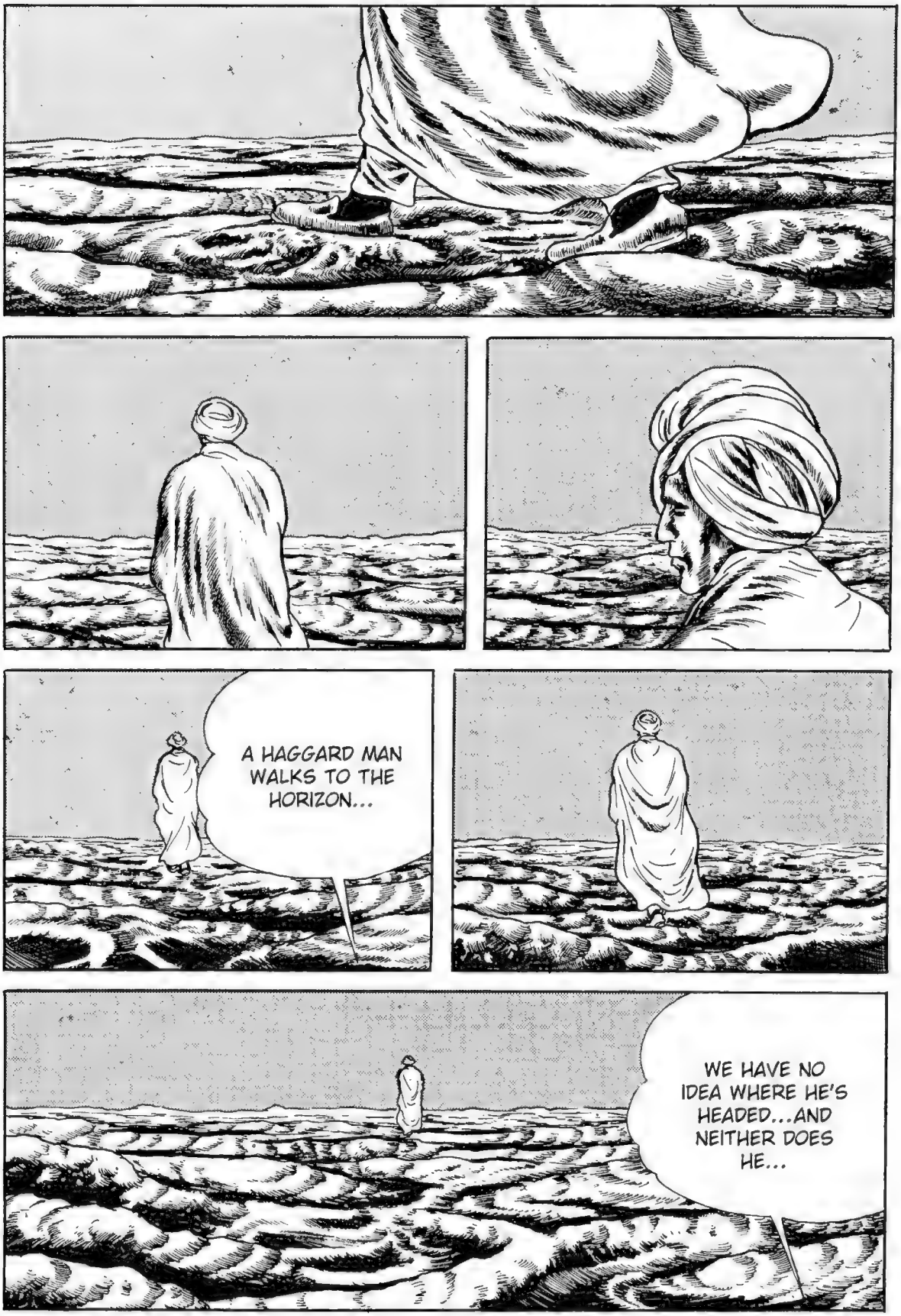
Emergency Update! No End in Sight!
Major Cities Abandoned as Desertification Spreads Worldwide!

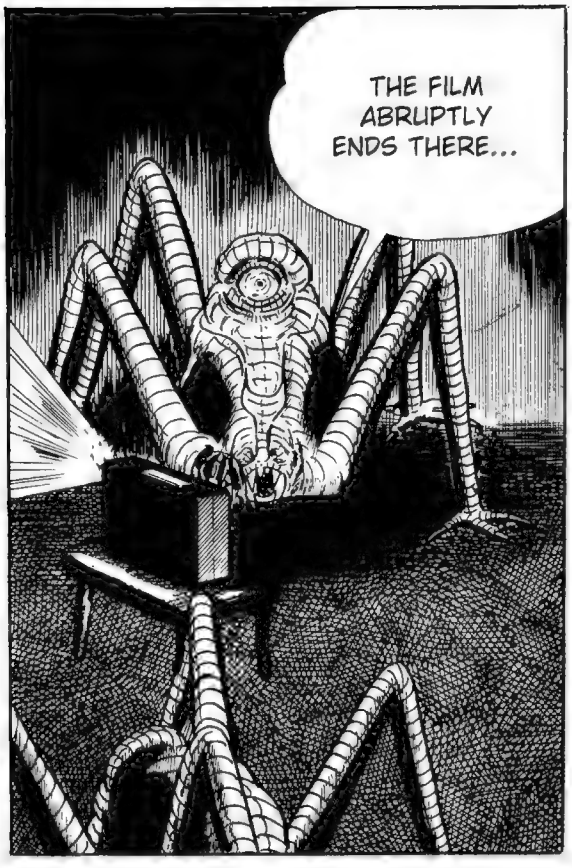


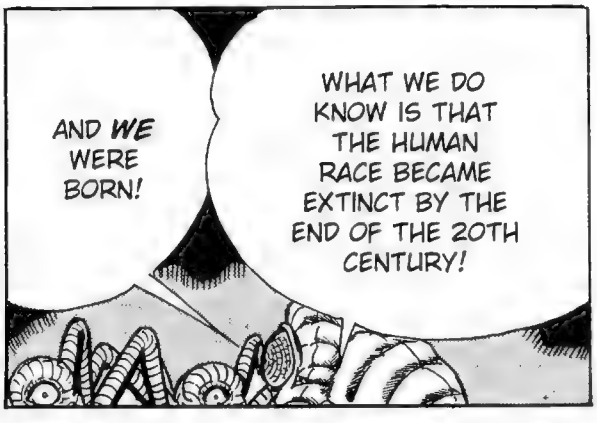

MOTHER ...!

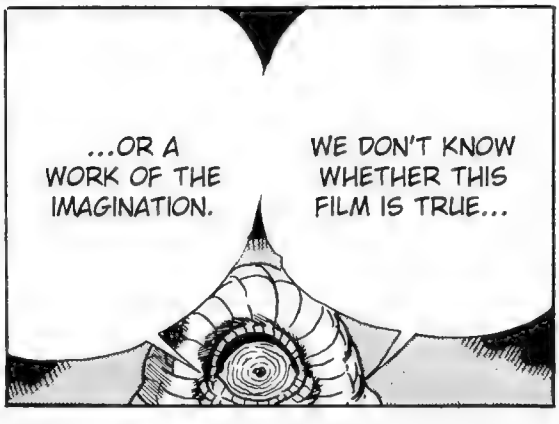

DOES THIS MEAN ...?
IF THIS IS TRUE, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE?

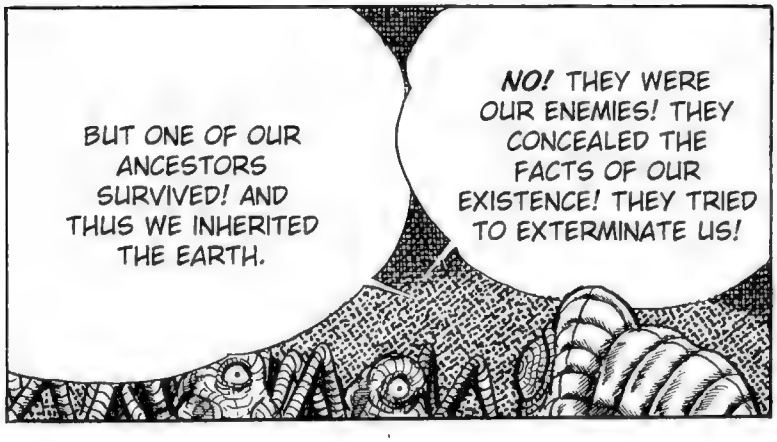

THIS NEXT SCENE IS THE SAHARA DESERT. A DEAD WORLD...LIKE THE WHOLE WORLD IS NOW...


A HAGGARD MAN WALKS TO THE HORIZON...
WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE'S HEADED...AND NEITHER DOES HE...

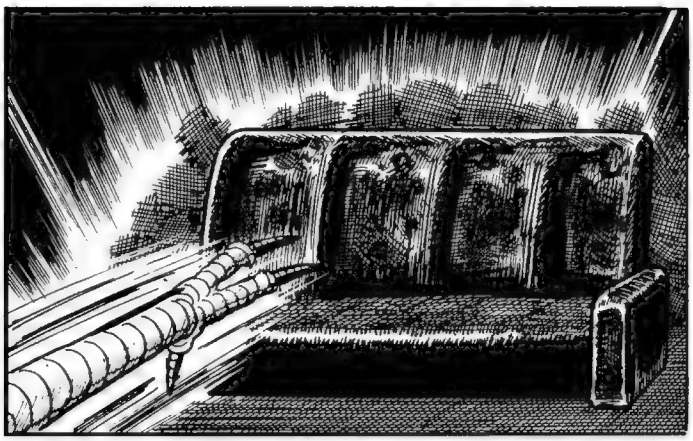

THE FILM ABRUPTLY ENDS THERE...

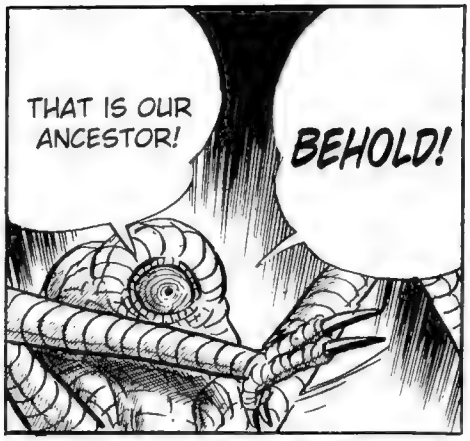

AND *WE* WERE BORN!
WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT THE HUMAN RACE BECAME EXTINCT BY THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY!

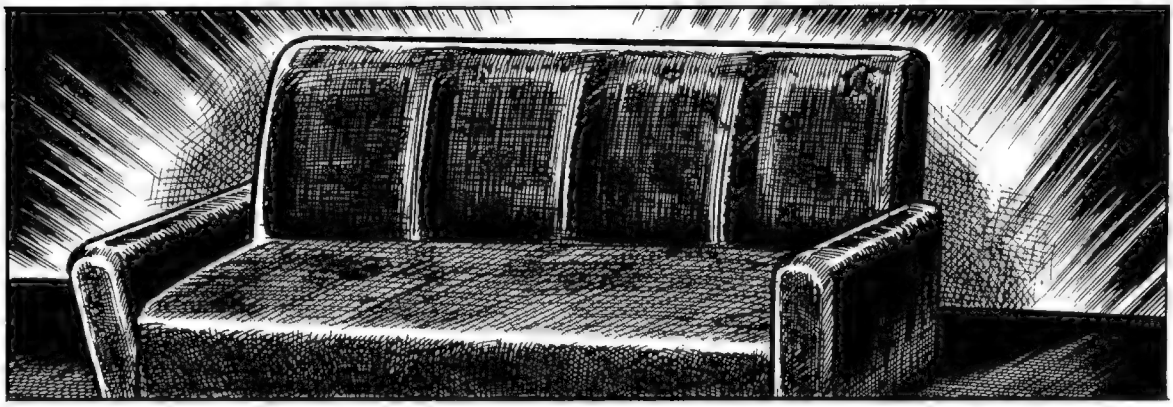

...OR A WORK OF THE IMAGINATION.
WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER THIS FILM IS TRUE...

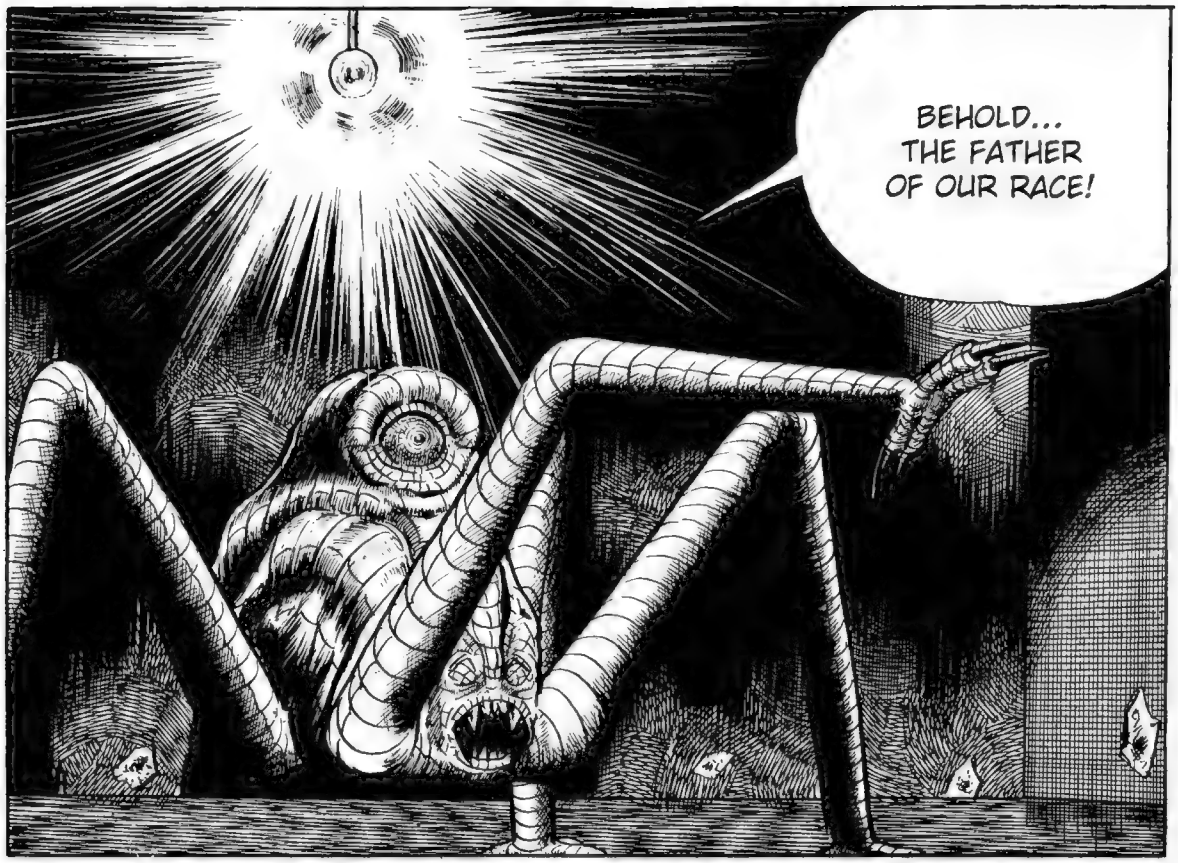

BUT ONE OF OUR ANCESTORS SURVIVED! AND THUS WE INHERITED THE EARTH.
NO! THEY WERE OUR ENEMIES! THEY CONCEALED THE FACTS OF OUR EXISTENCE! THEY TRIED TO EXTERMINATE US!

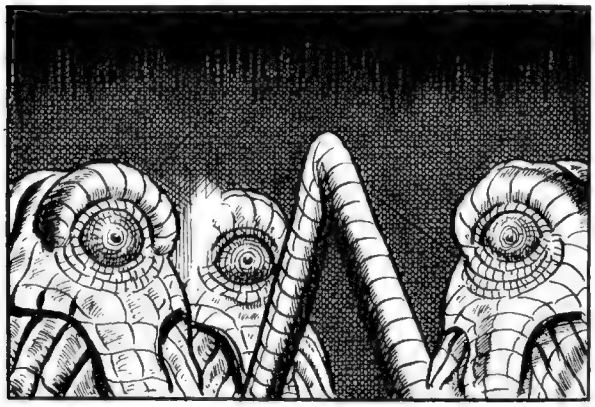
OR SHOULD WE SAY THAT THE HUMANS SURVIVED THROUGH US...?

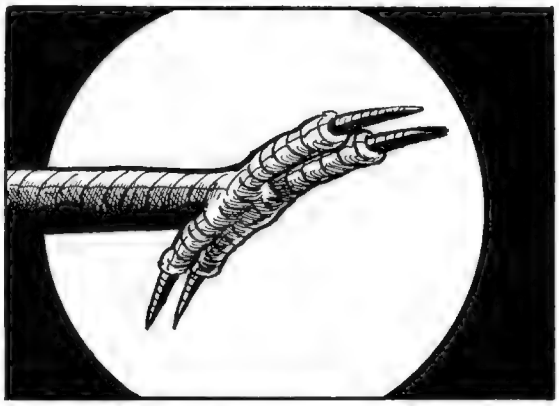


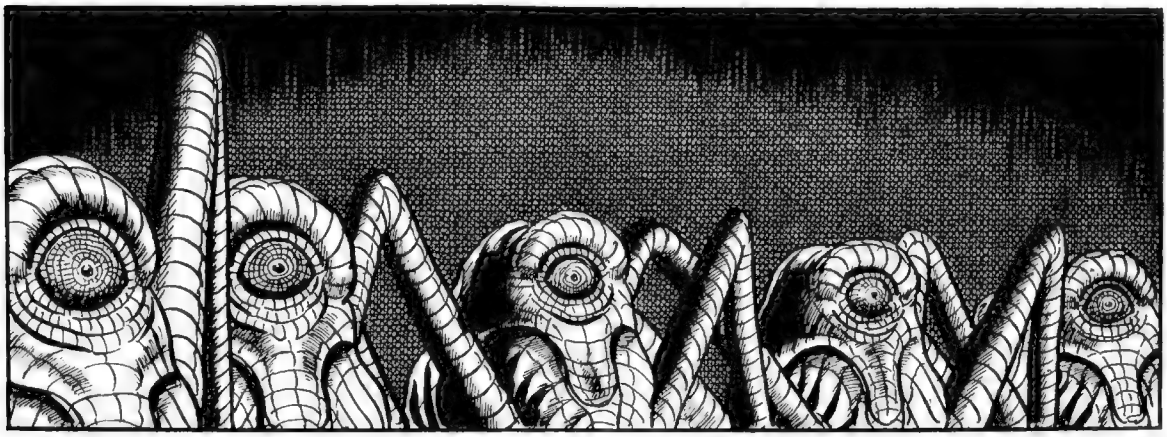

THAT IS OUR ANCESTOR!
BEHOLD!



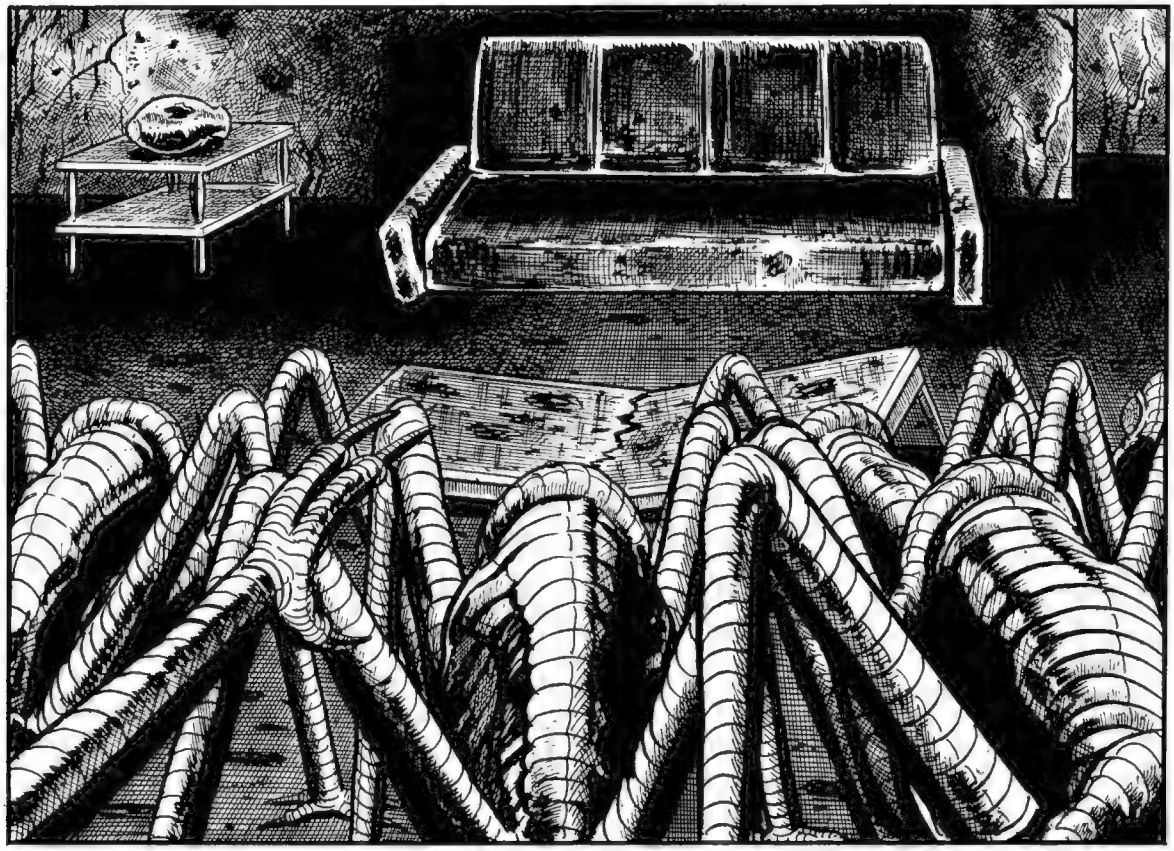

BEHOLD...
THE FATHER
OF OUR RACE!

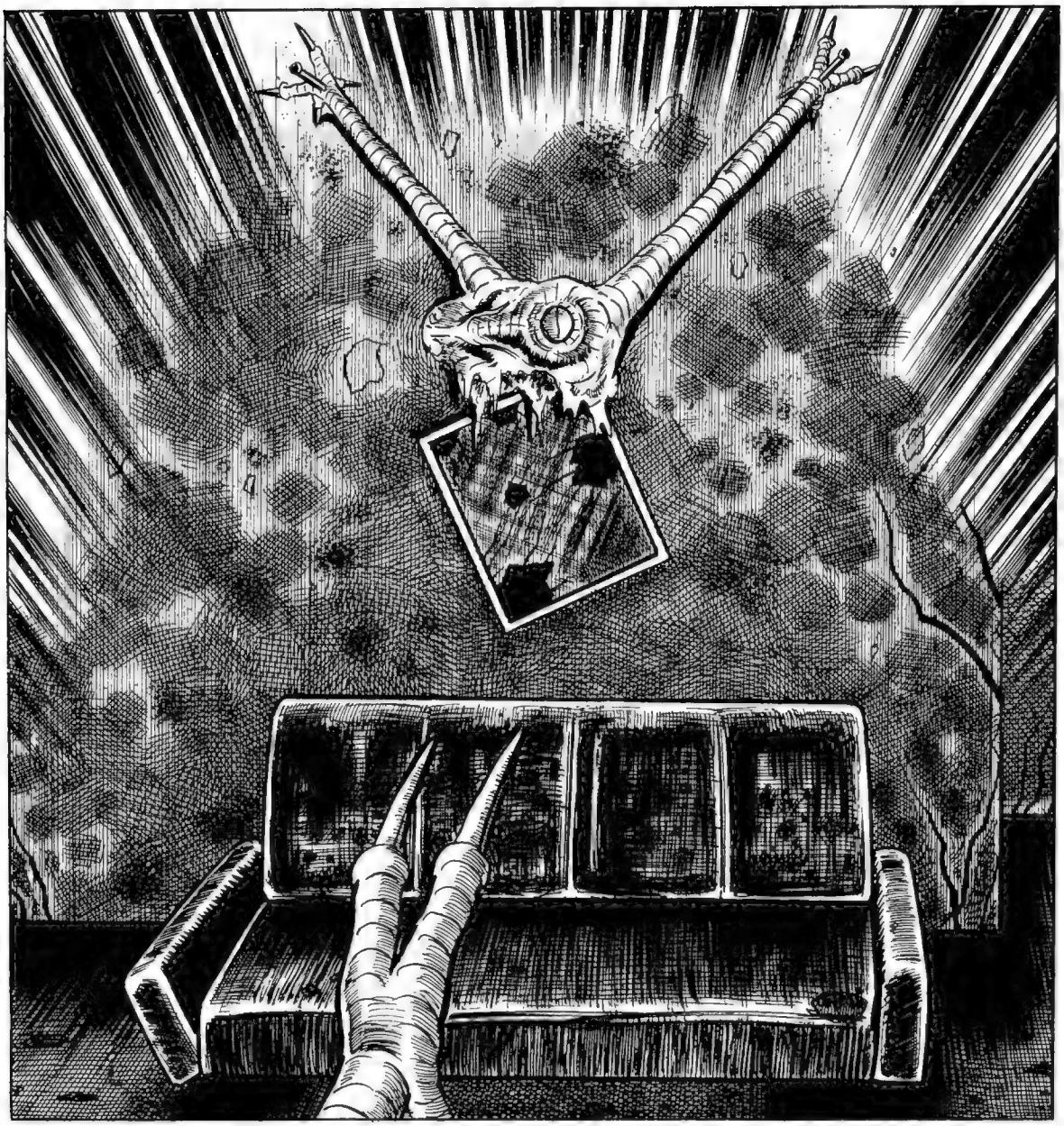


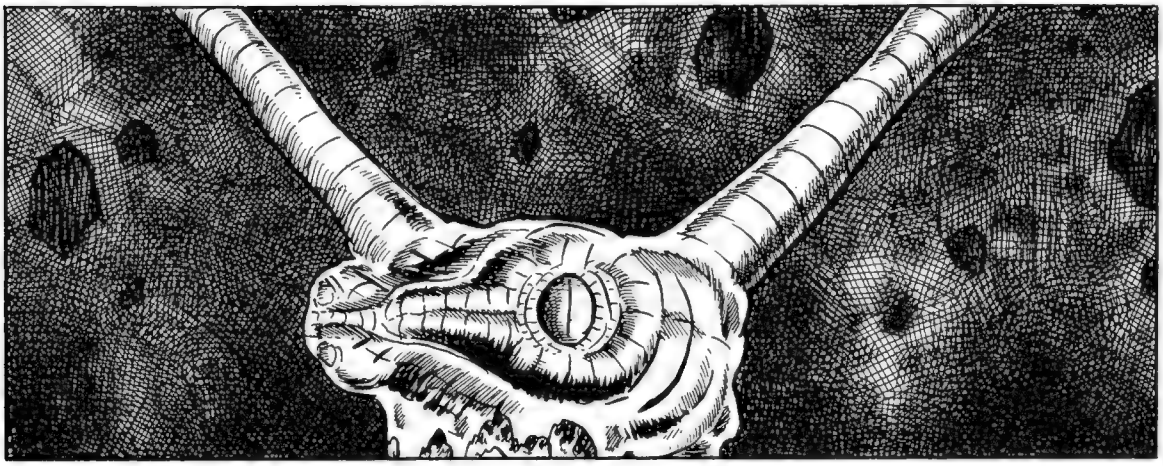


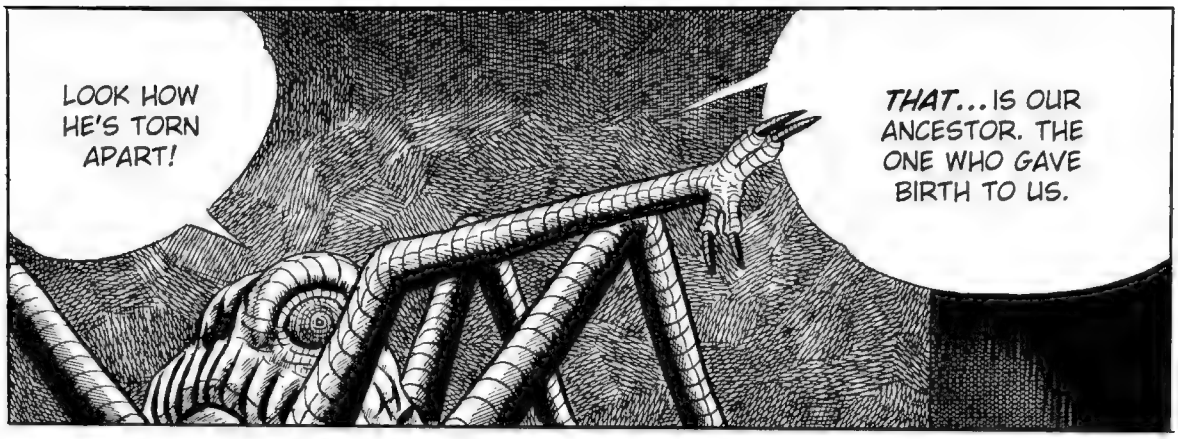


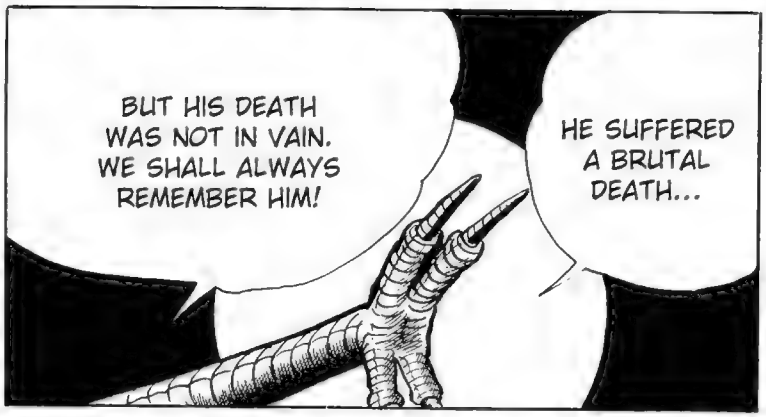
HAVE THEY FOUND US?!

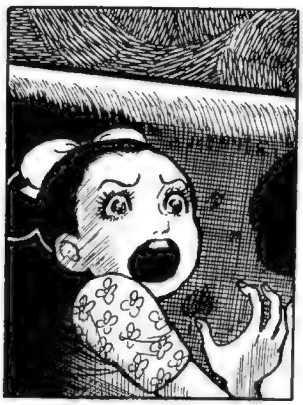


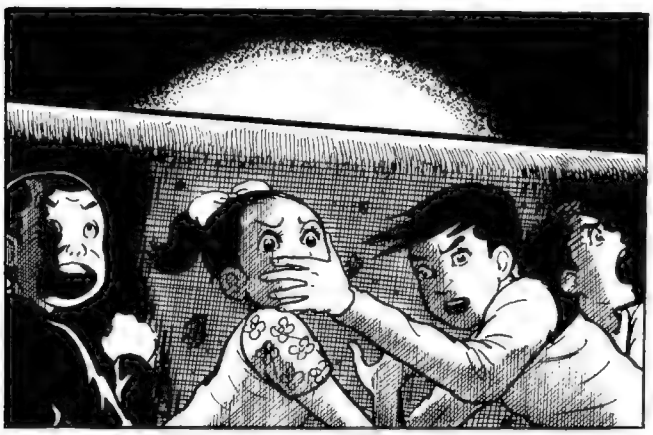


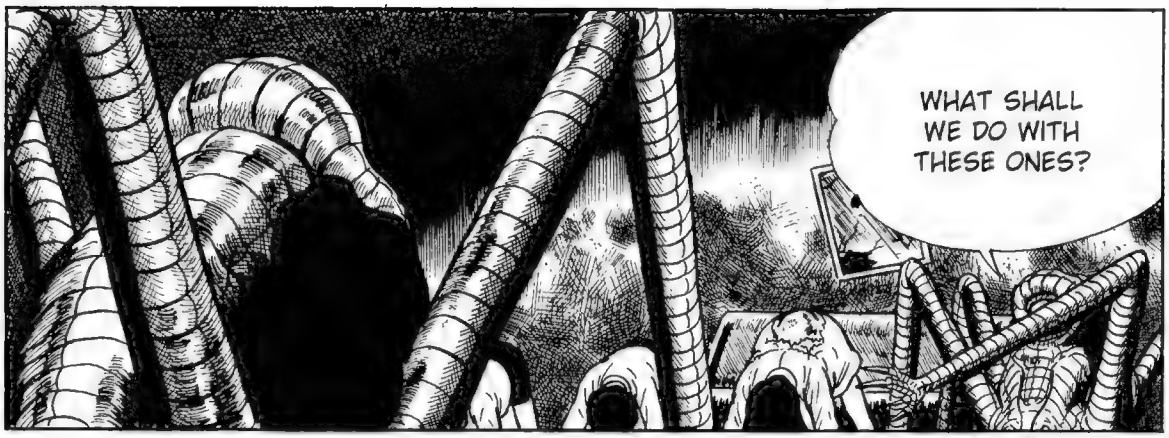



LOOK HOW HE'S TORN APART!
THAT... IS OUR ANCESTOR. THE ONE WHO GAVE BIRTH TO US.


BUT HIS DEATH WAS NOT IN VAIN. WE SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIM!
HE SUFFERED A BRUTAL DEATH...

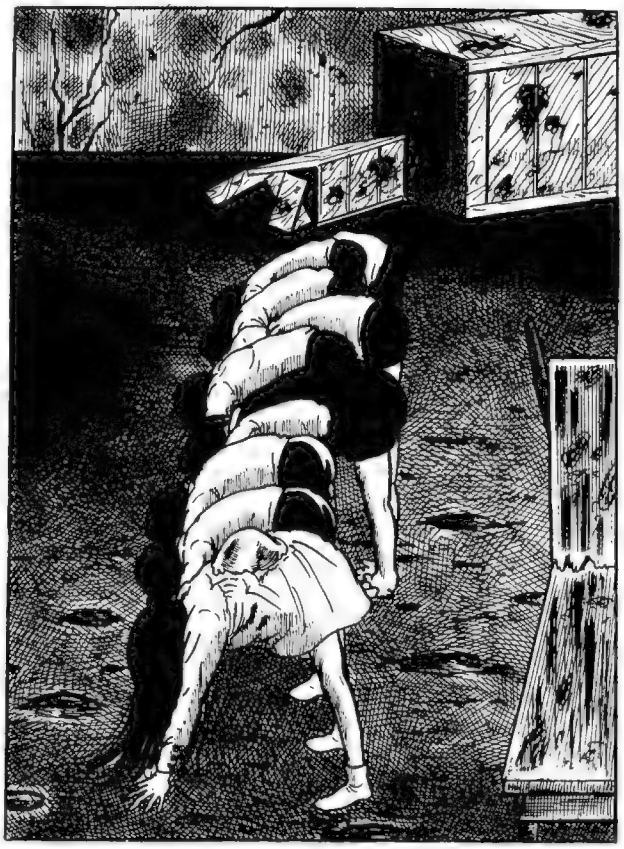


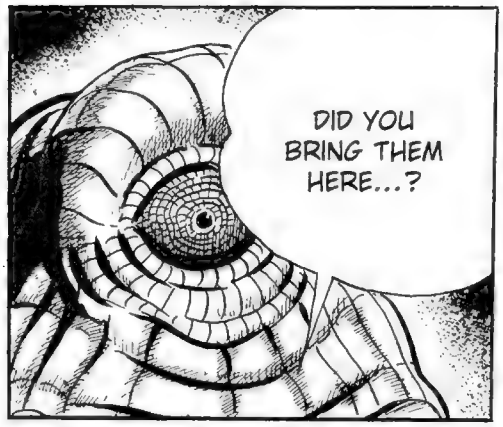


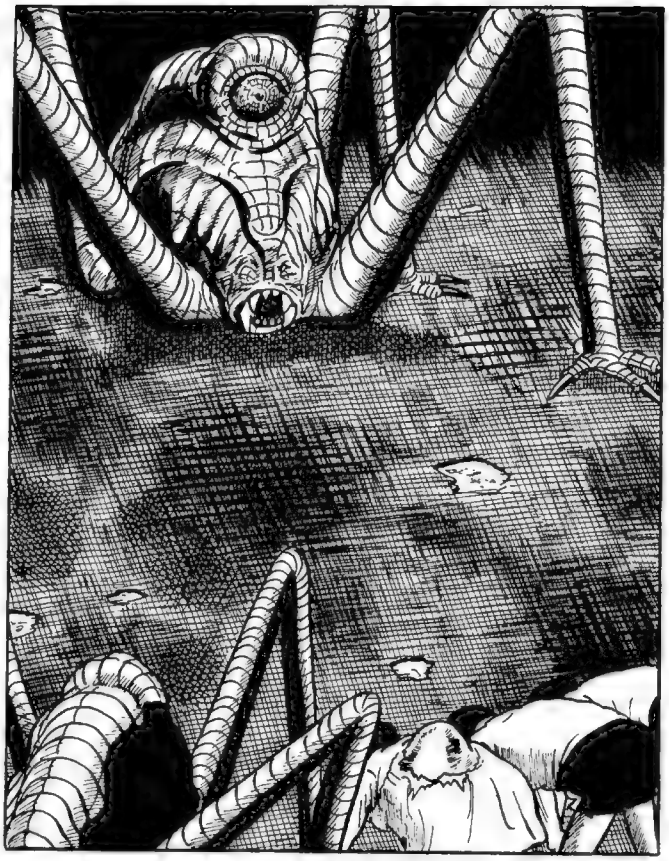

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THESE ONES?

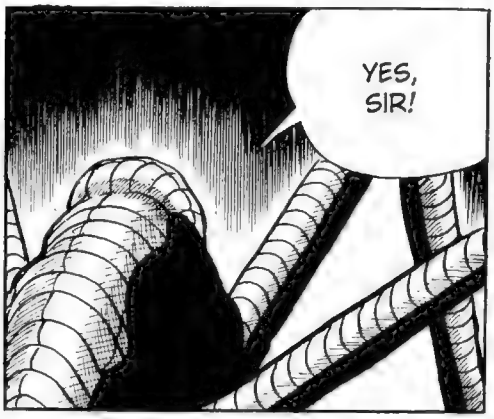
THAT'S YOSHIKAWA AND THE OTHERS!
AA AA

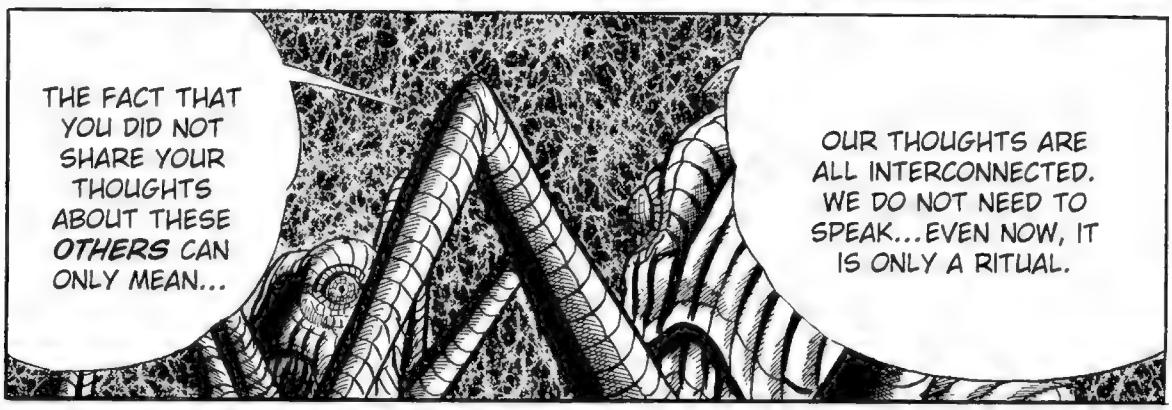
WHY ARE THEY ON ALL FOURS?

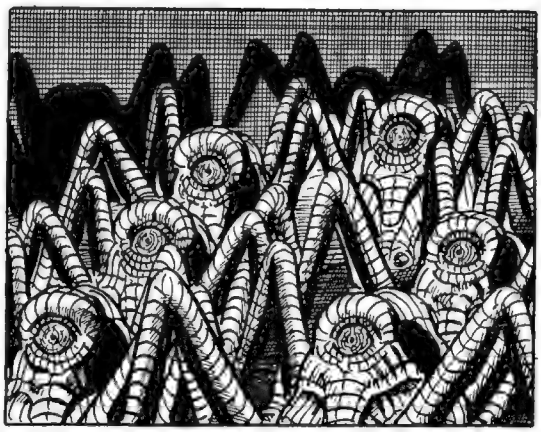



DID YOU BRING THEM HERE...?

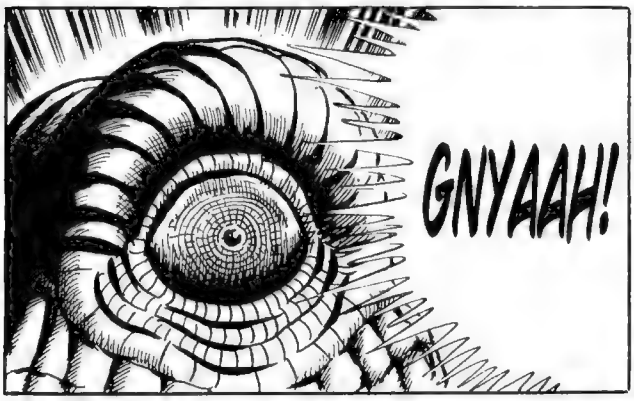


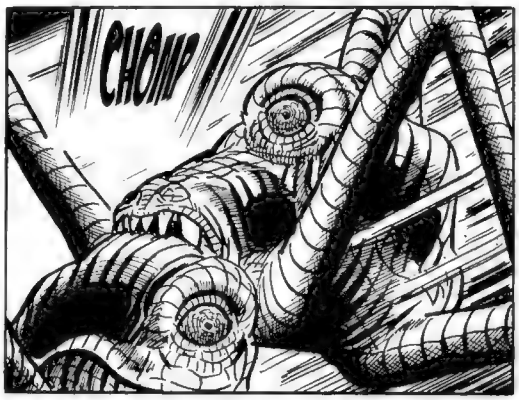

YES, SIR!


THE FACT THAT YOU DID NOT SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THESE *OTHERS* CAN ONLY MEAN...
OUR THOUGHTS ARE ALL INTERCONNECTED. WE DO NOT NEED TO SPEAK...EVEN NOW, IT IS ONLY A RITUAL.



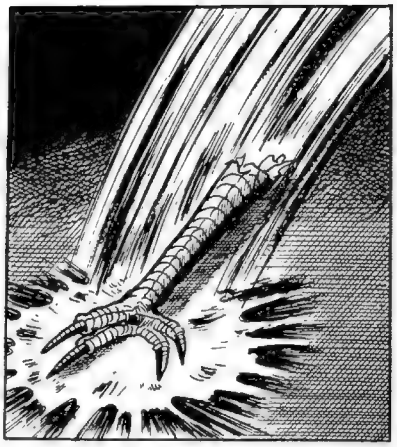
SSSS

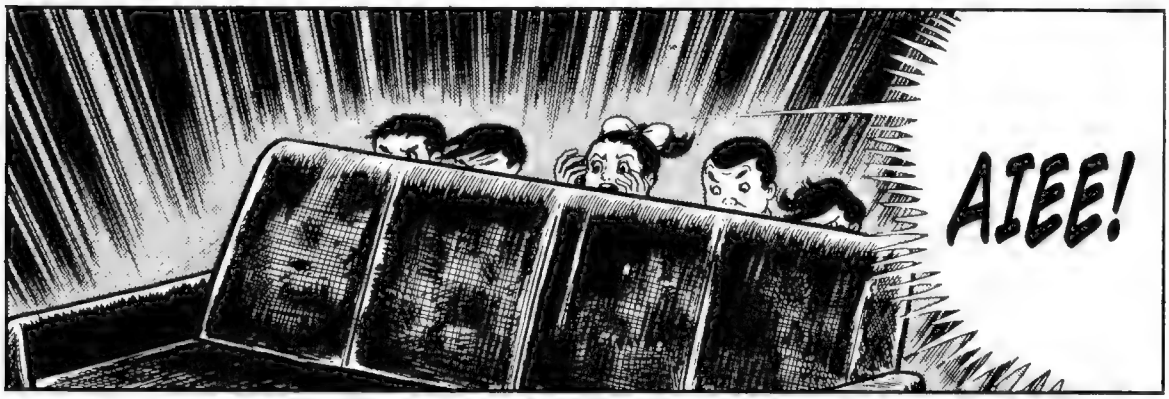

GNYAAH!


CHOMP

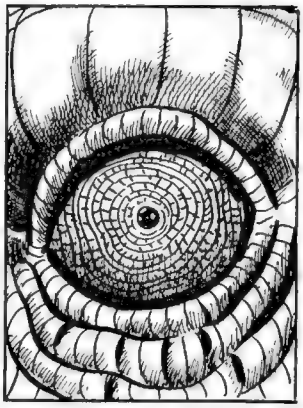
SLRRP
RRIPP

SLRRP
RRNCH
RRIPP




AIEE!

THEY FOUND US! RUN!



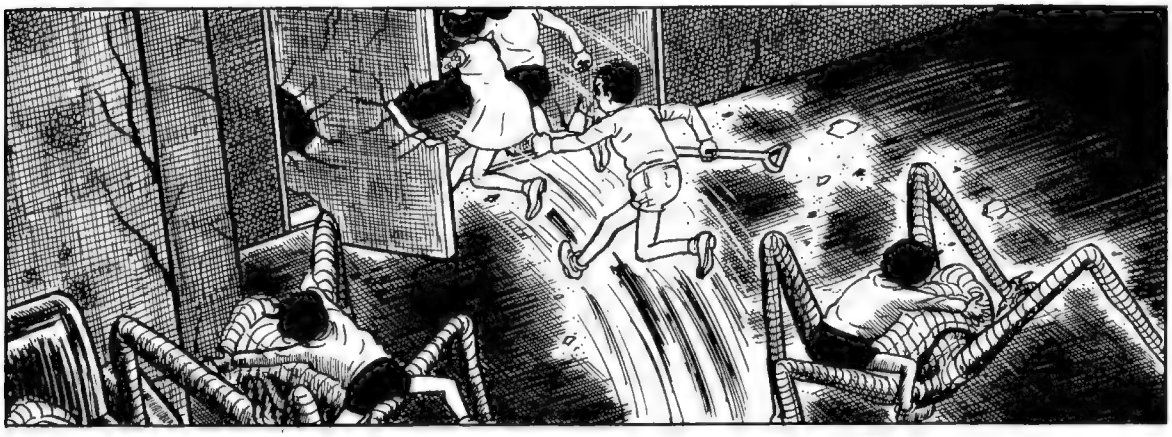
SK
SK

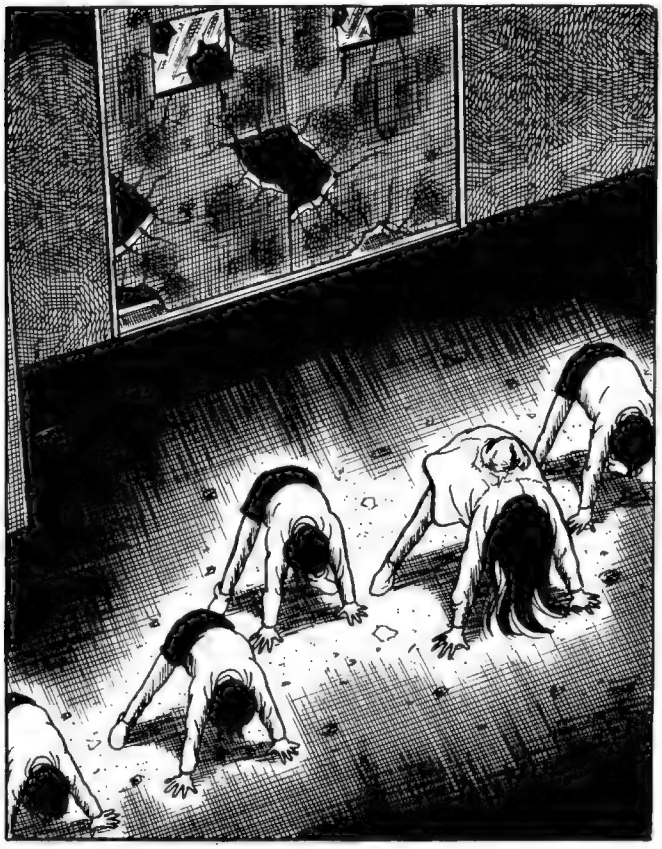
RRRAGGH!
BANG
EEYAAA!
HELP ME!
OTSUKI!
HELP ME, YOSHIKAWA!

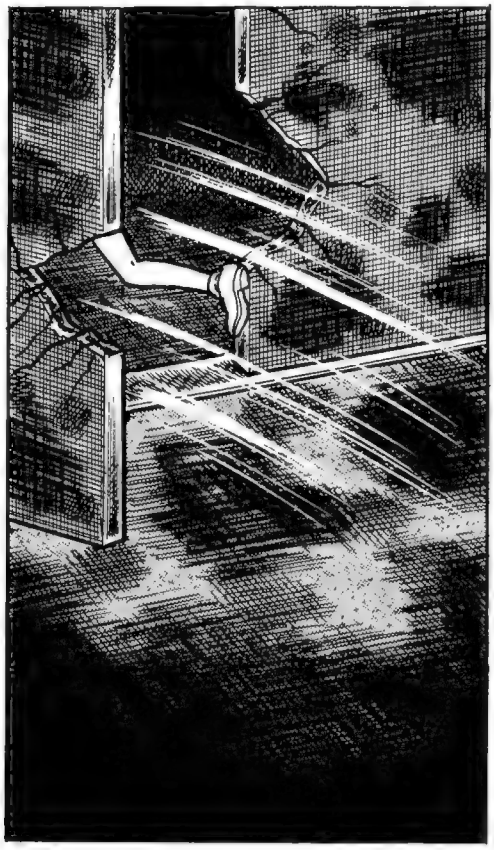
HELLPP!

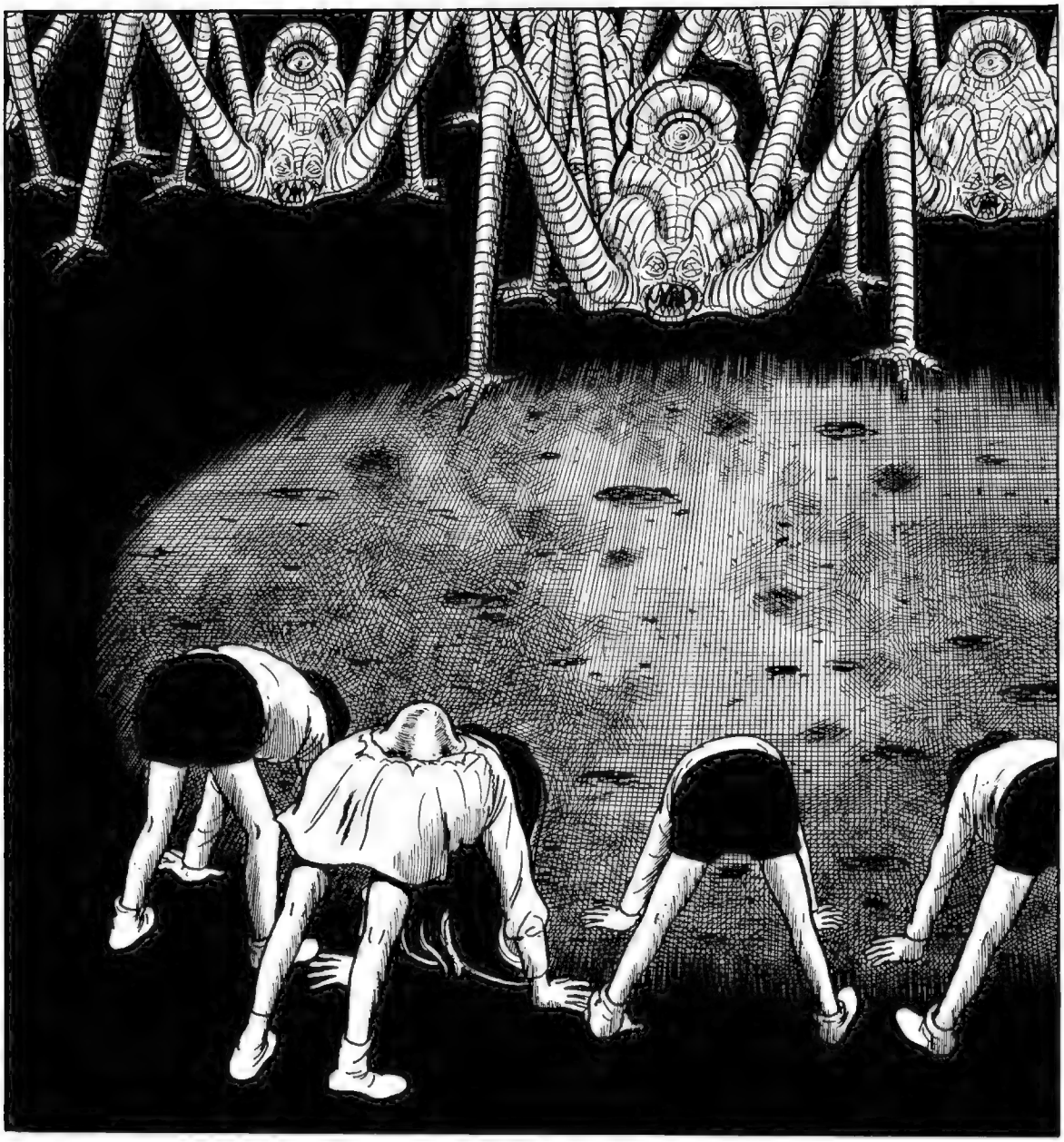
CHOMP

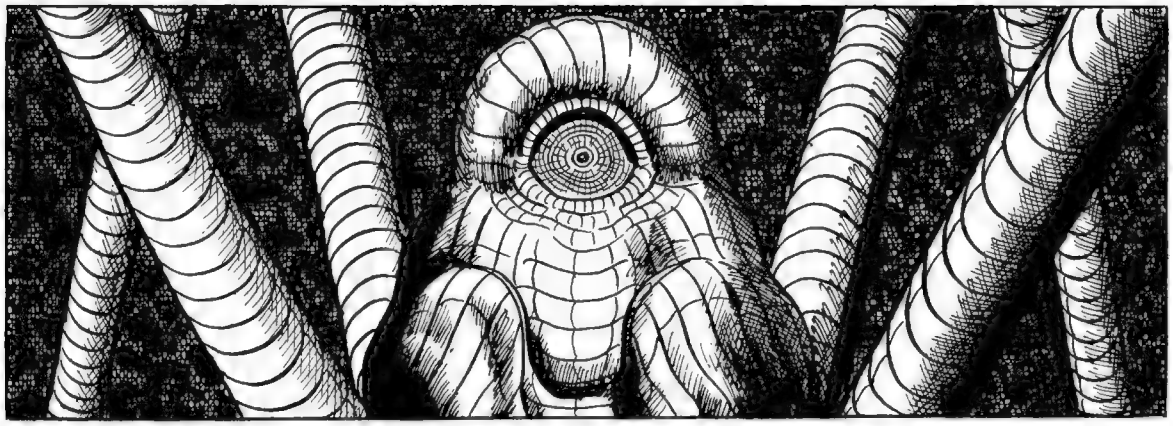
GO!
R-RUN, EVERYONE!





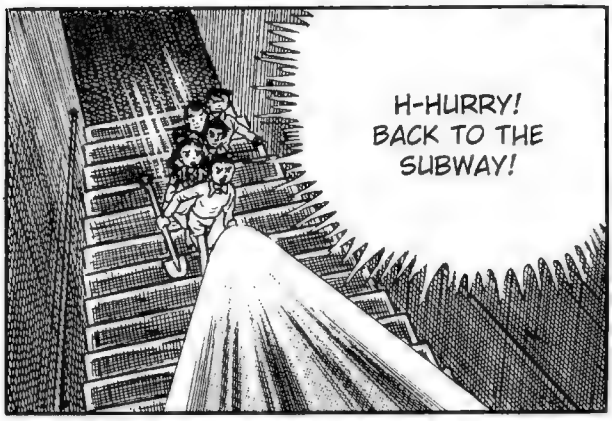


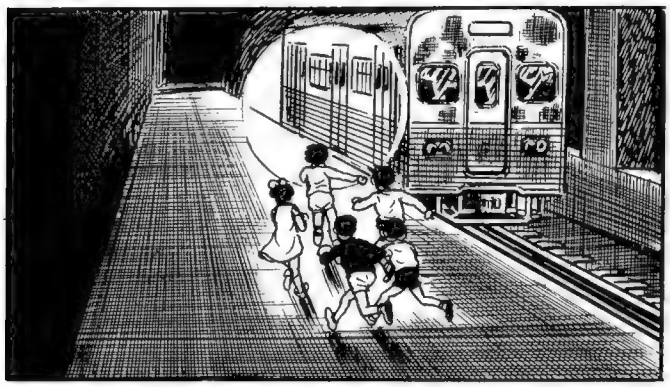


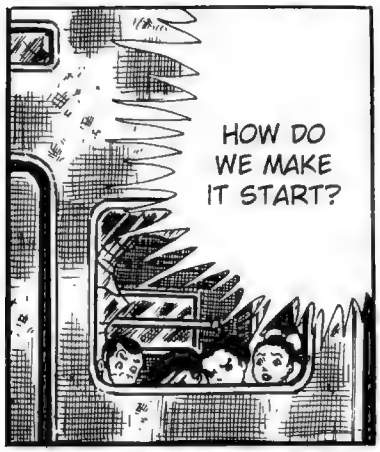


SSSSS

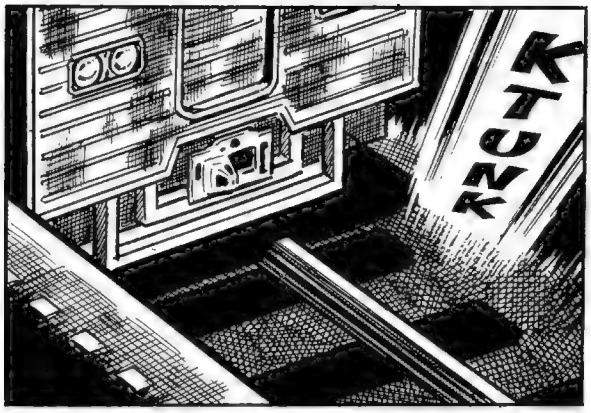
HUFF!
HUFF!

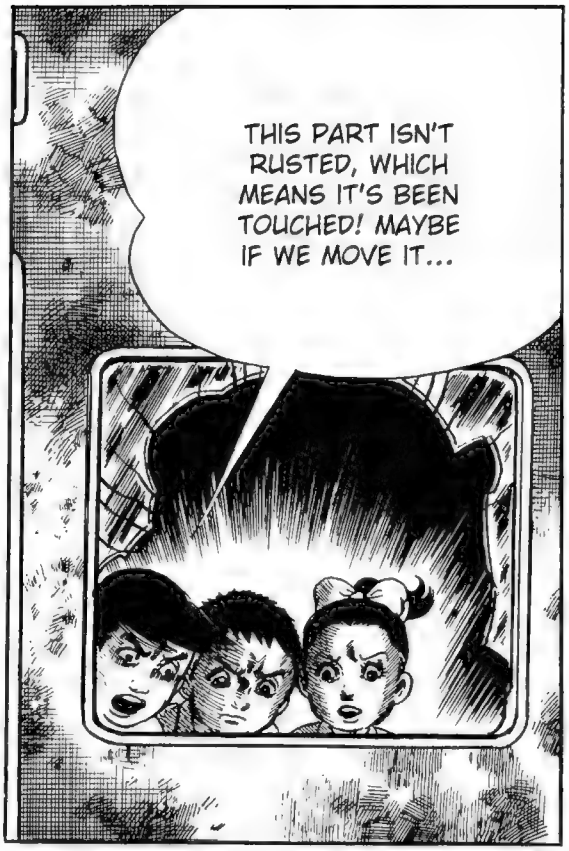

H-HURRY! BACK TO THE SUBWAY!

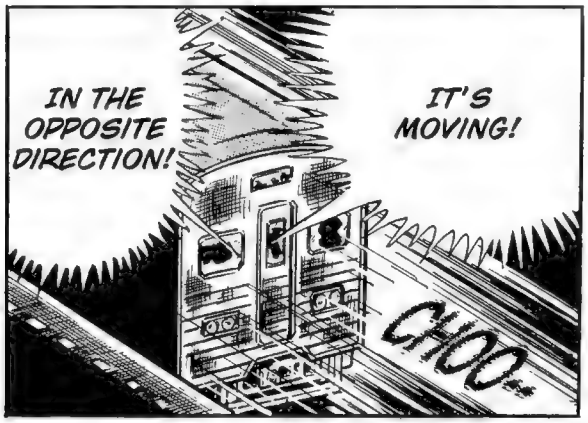



HOW DO WE MAKE IT START?

WE HAVE TO TAKE THAT GHOST TRAIN OUT OF HERE!


KTUNK

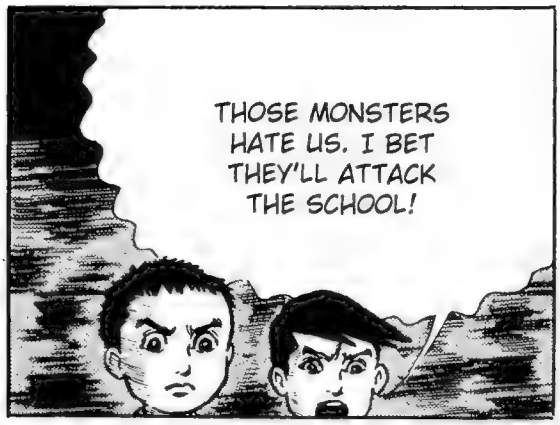

THIS PART ISN'T RUSTED, WHICH MEANS IT'S BEEN TOUCHED! MAYBE IF WE MOVE IT...

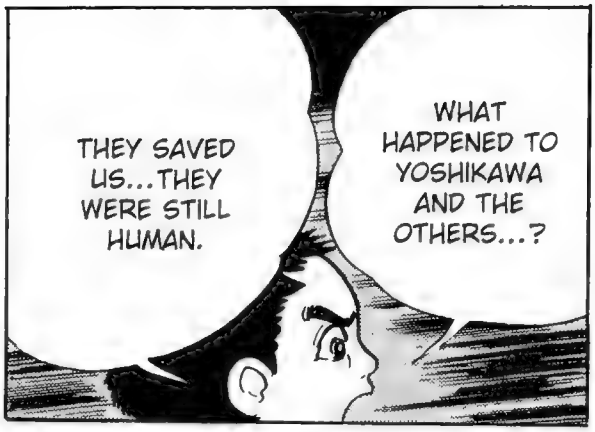

IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION!
IT'S MOVING!
CHOO...

WH-WHERE ARE WE GOING?!

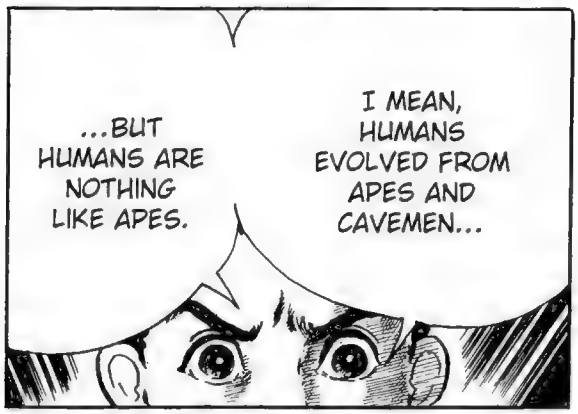
WE HAVE TO MOVE FORWARD! OTHERWISE WE'LL GET CAUGHT!

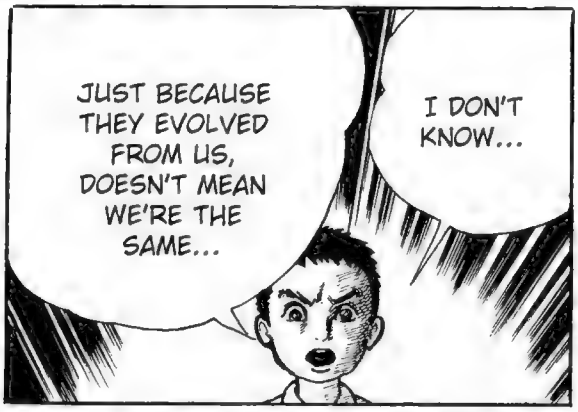
AAGGH!
KLAKETA
KLAKETA

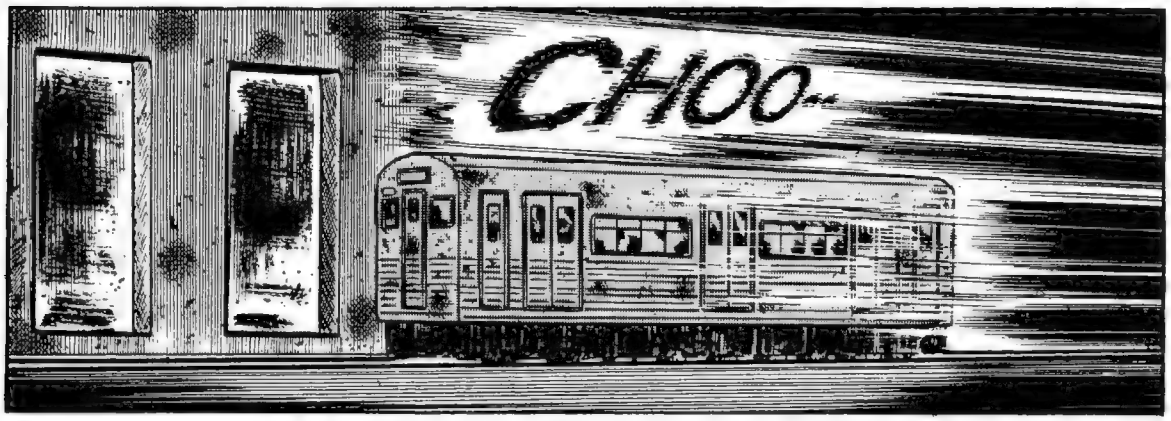

THOSE MONSTERS HATE US. I BET THEY'LL ATTACK THE SCHOOL!

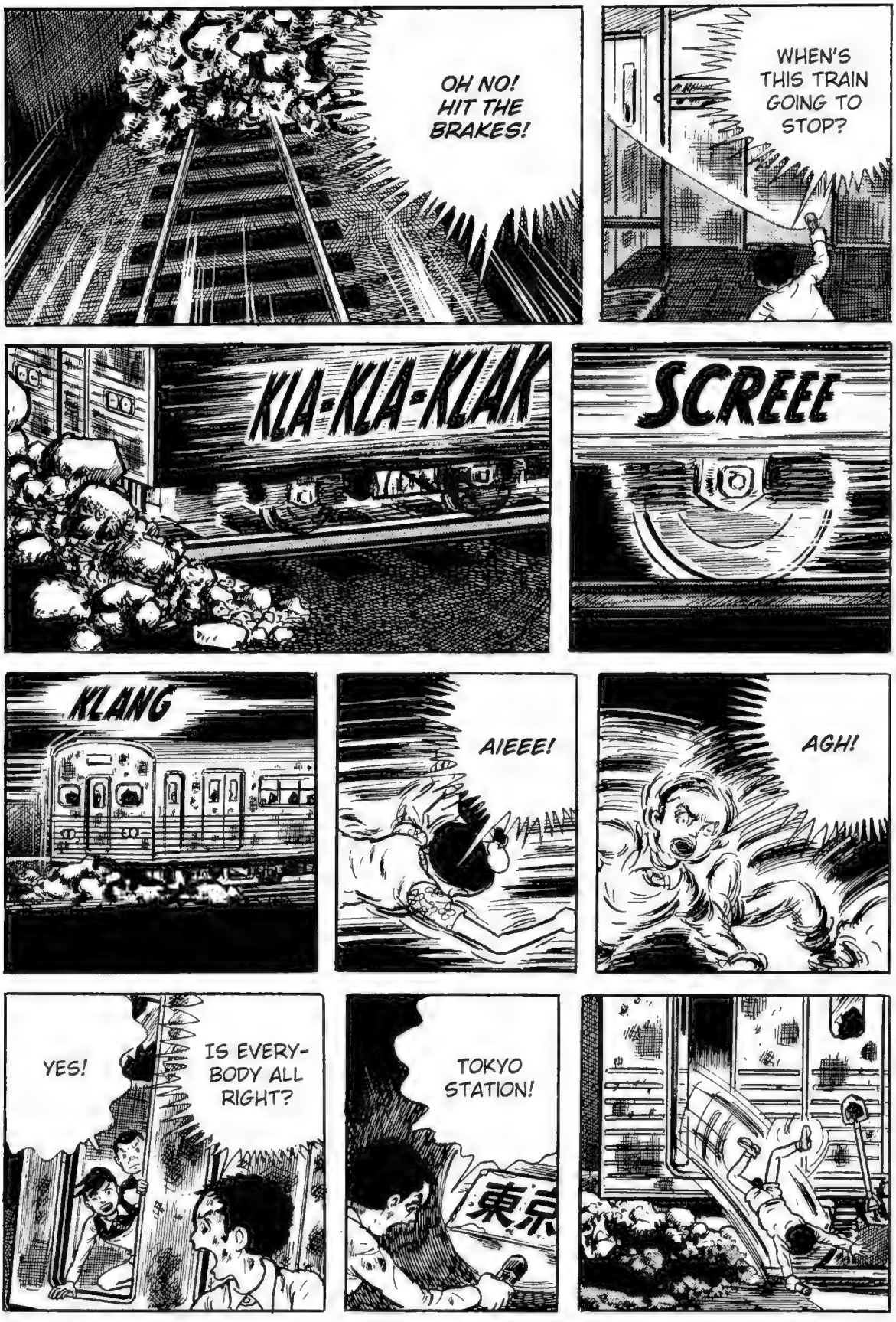

THEY SAVED US...THEY WERE STILL HUMAN.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOSHIKAWA AND THE OTHERS...?

...SO MAYBE THEY ARE HUMAN?
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY? THEY COULD SPEAK JAPANESE. AND THEY SAID THEY CAME FROM HUMANS...


...BUT HUMANS ARE NOTHING LIKE APES.
I MEAN, HUMANS EVOLVED FROM APES AND CAVEMEN...


JUST BECAUSE THEY EVOLVED FROM US, DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE THE SAME...
I DON'T KNOW...


CHOO...


OH NO! HIT THE BRAKES!
WHEN'S THIS TRAIN GOING TO STOP?
KLA-KLA-KLAK
SCREEE
KLANG
AIEEE!
AGH!
YES!
IS EVERY-BODY ALL RIGHT?
TOKYO STATION!
東京

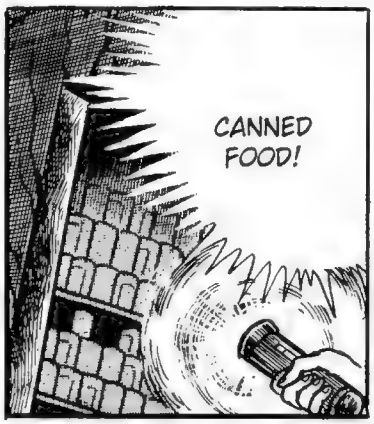
LOOK! A STORE!

THERE SHOULD BE AN UNDER-GROUND MALL! MAYBE WE CAN FIND SOME FOOD!

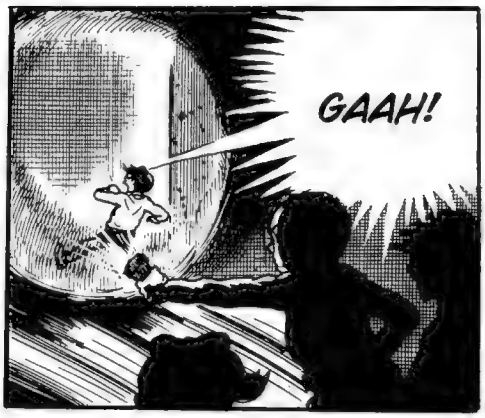
THERE'S A PLAZA OVER HERE!

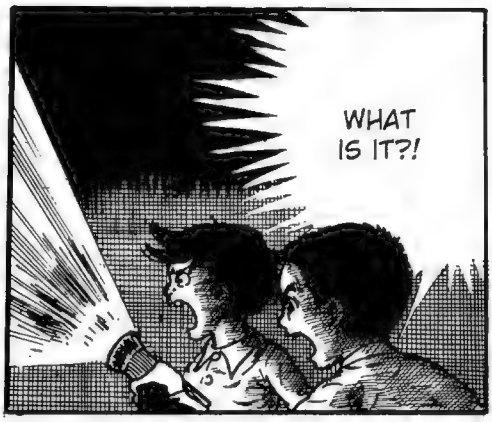
IT'S STILL FRESH! IT'S STILL A LITTLE WET ON THE BOTTOM!
WHO COULD HAVE EATEN THEM?

THEY'RE ALL EMPTY!

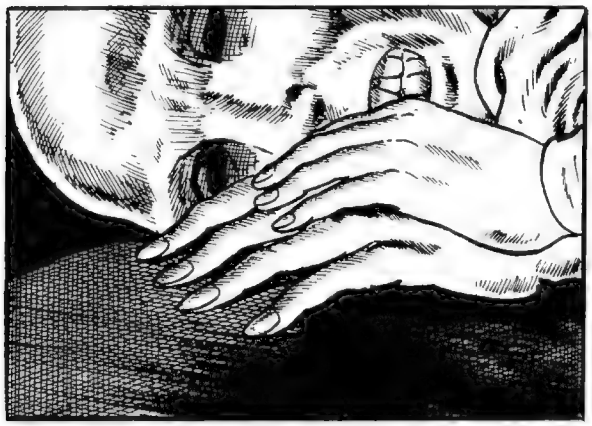

CANNED FOOD!

O-OVER THERE...!

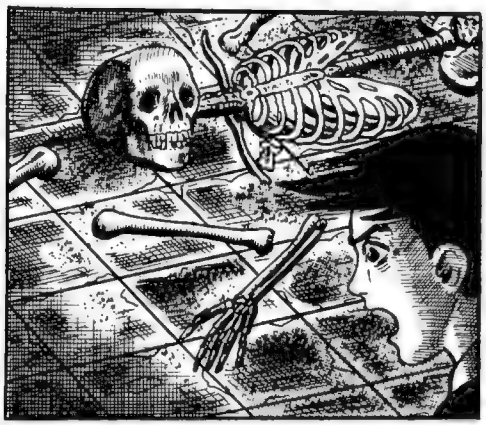

GAAH!


WHAT IS IT?!

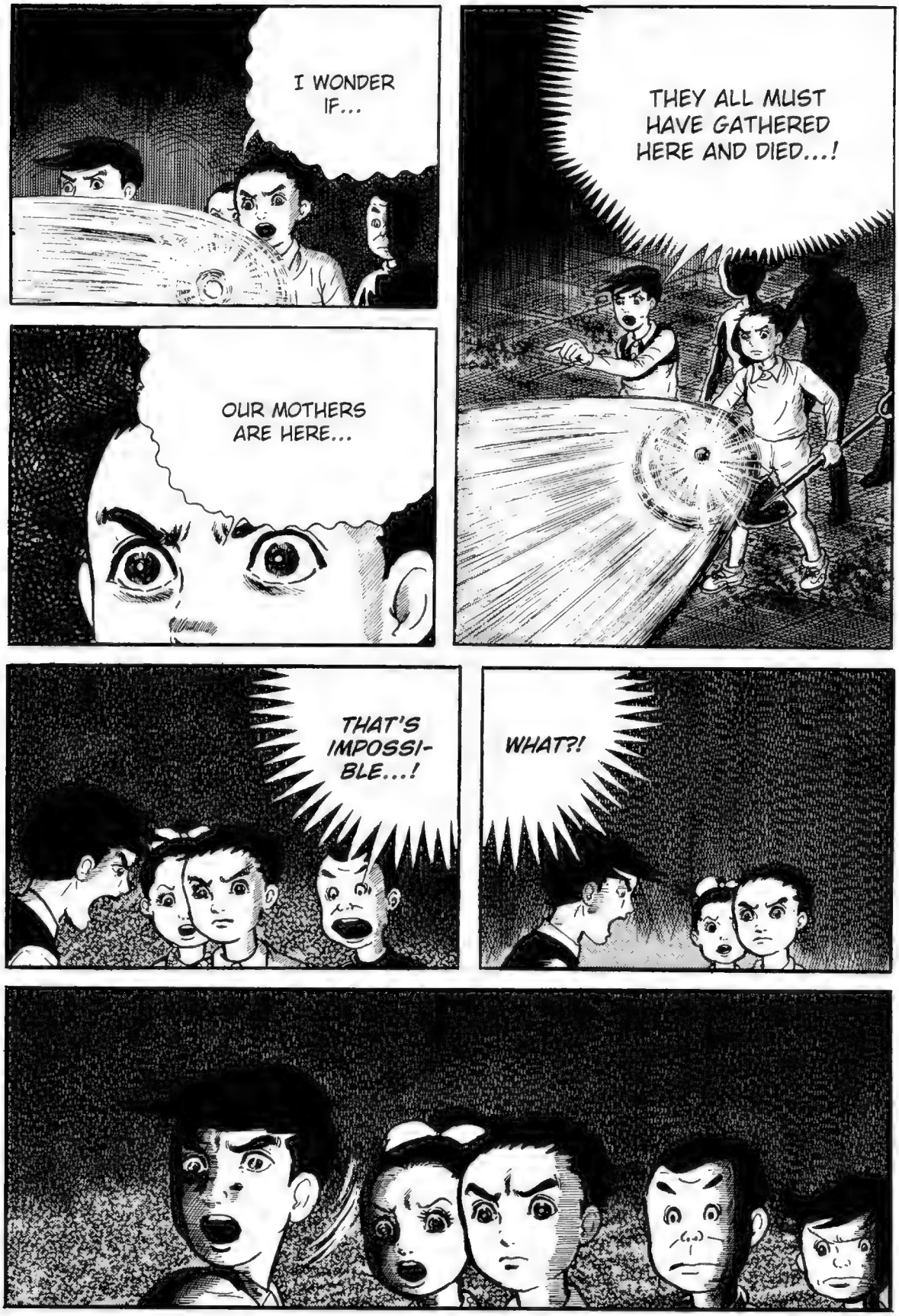
H-HUNDREDS OF BODIES...!



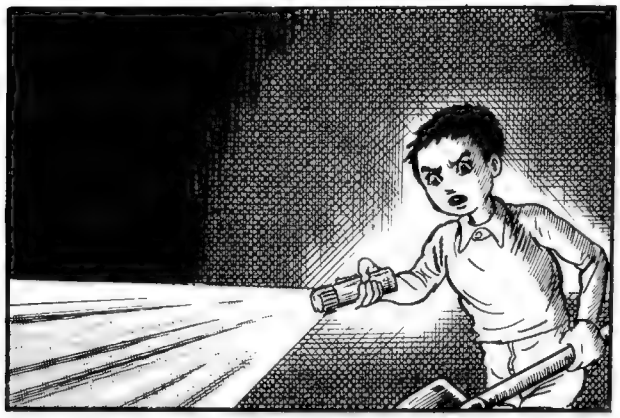
THOSE ONES ARE SKELETONS!

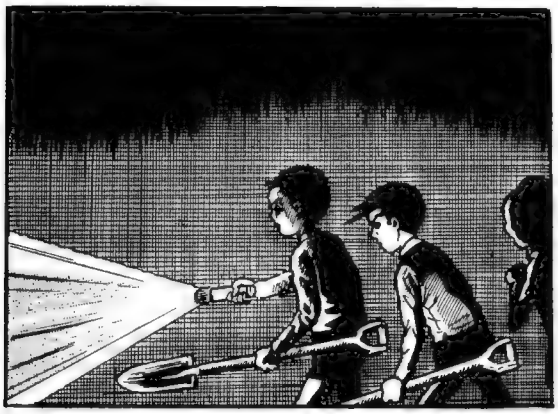


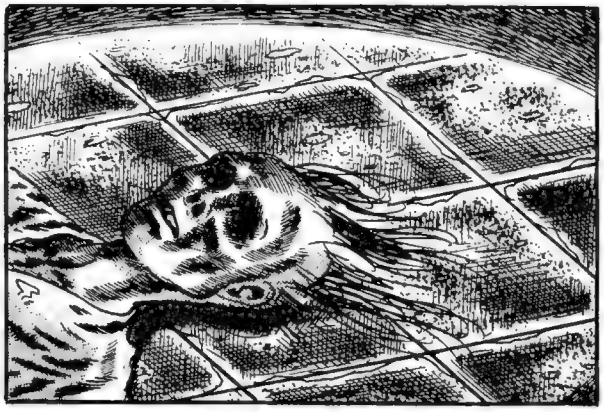
THEY'RE NATURALLY MUMMIFIED ...!


I WONDER IF...
THEY ALL MUST HAVE GATHERED HERE AND DIED...!
OUR MOTHERS ARE HERE...
THAT'S IMPOSSI-BLE...!
WHAT?!

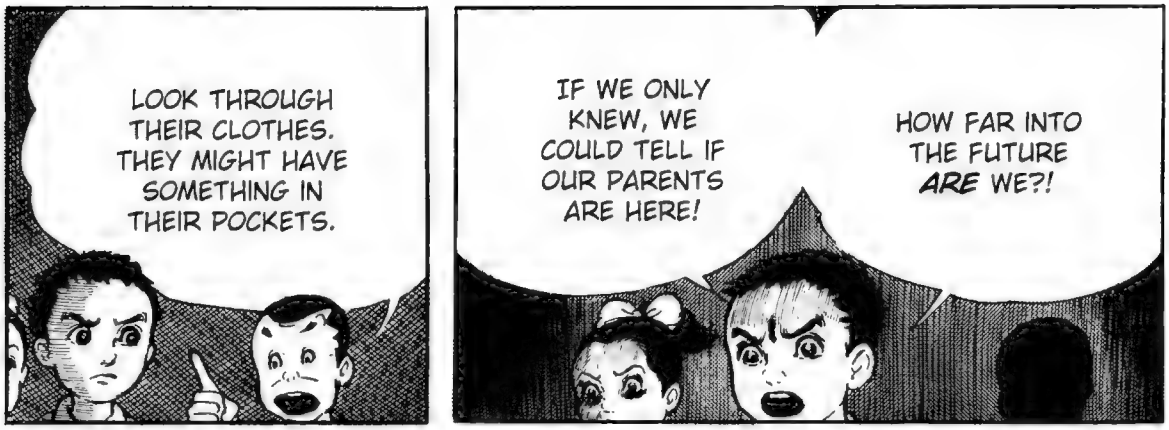
MOTHER!



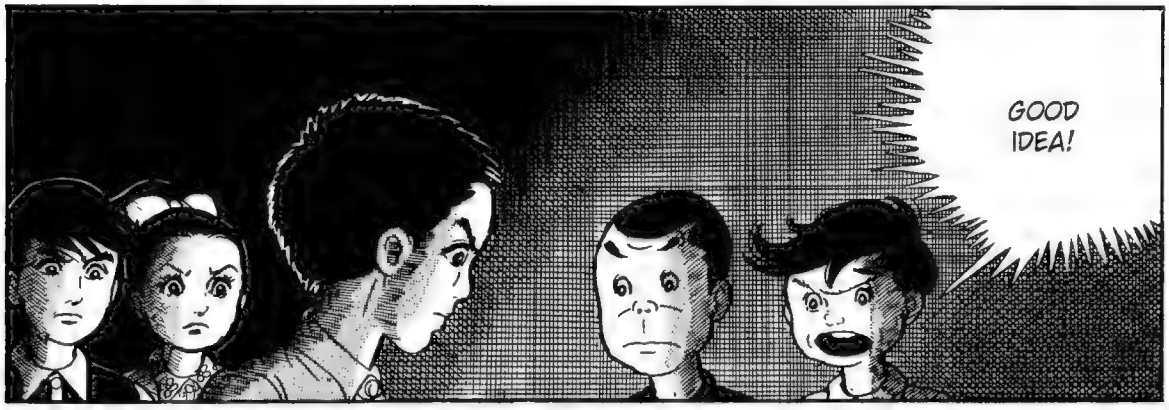




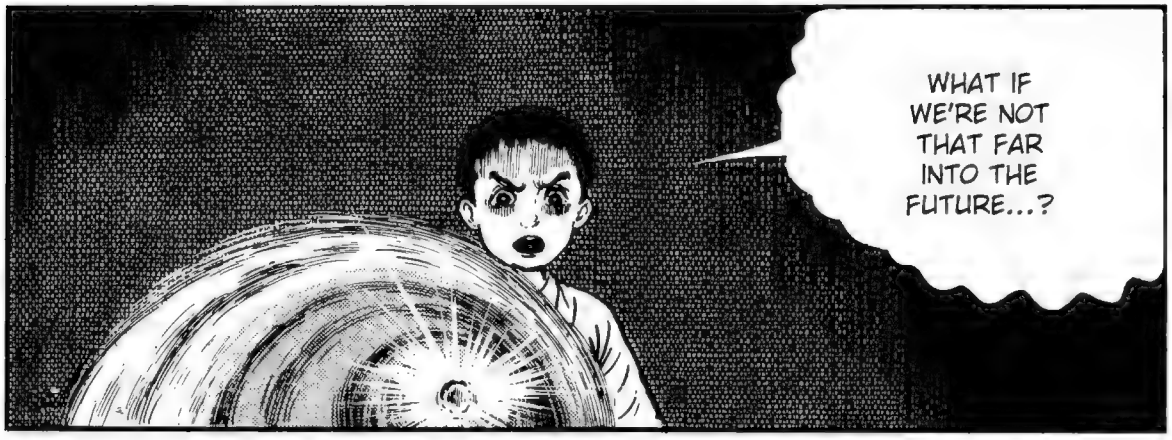
LOOK AT THEM! THERE'S NOT JUST HUNDREDS... THERE'S THOUSANDS...
TH- THEY'RE ALL STRANGERS!


LOOK THROUGH THEIR CLOTHES. THEY MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING IN THEIR POCKETS.

IF WE ONLY KNEW, WE COULD TELL IF OUR PARENTS ARE HERE!
HOW FAR INTO THE FUTURE *ARE* WE?!


GOOD IDEA!

I MEAN...
WAIT! ON SECOND THOUGHT, I'M SCARED TO FIND OUT...

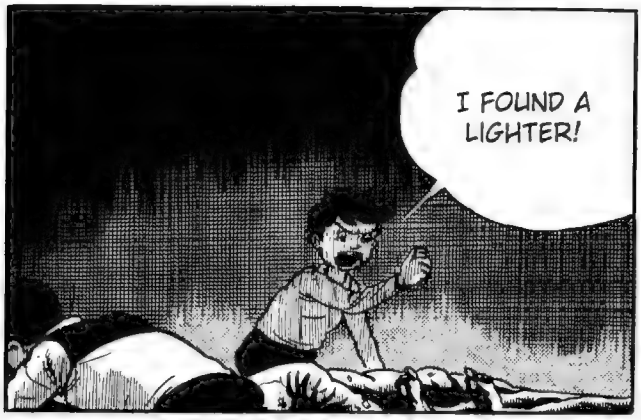

WHAT IF WE'RE NOT THAT FAR INTO THE FUTURE...?

WHEN WE FIRST WENT OUT TO THE DESERT WITH MR. WAKAHARA, WE FOUND A FLOWER.
I'VE BEEN SCARED OF KNOWING FOR A WHILE NOW...
BUT WHEN WE FOUND THE CORPSE IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AND THE SHIPWRECK ON THE DRIED-UP SEA...WITH ALL THOSE THINGS, I KNEW FOR SURE...
A FAKE FLOWER MADE OUT OF PLASTIC...BUT EVEN SO, IT DIDN'T LOOK THAT OLD...
AND IF THAT'S TRUE...
WE CAN'T BE THAT FAR IN THE FUTURE!
...I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF FINDING MY MOM'S BODY!

I REALLY DOUBT ANYONE'S MOTHER IS HERE!
EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW HOW FAR INTO THE FUTURE WE ARE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE SAYING THIS!

QUICK! SEARCH THEIR POCKETS!


I FOUND A LIGHTER!

I FOUND A HAND-KERCHIEF!

IT LIT UP!
WHOA!

TSSH

KLIK

MONEY!

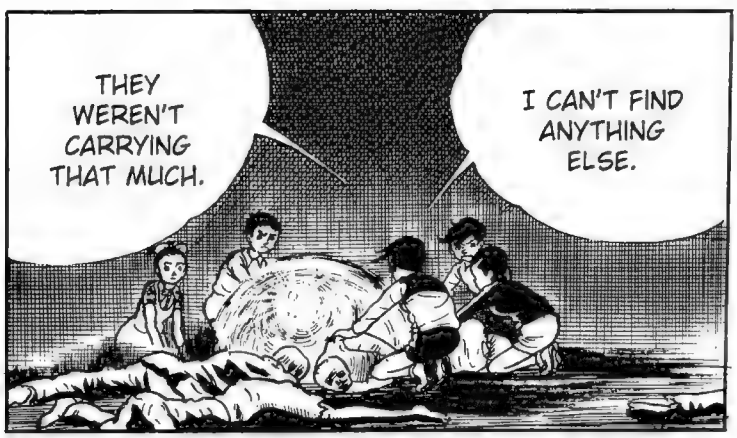
L-LOOK!

WHAT?!
100,000 YEN?!

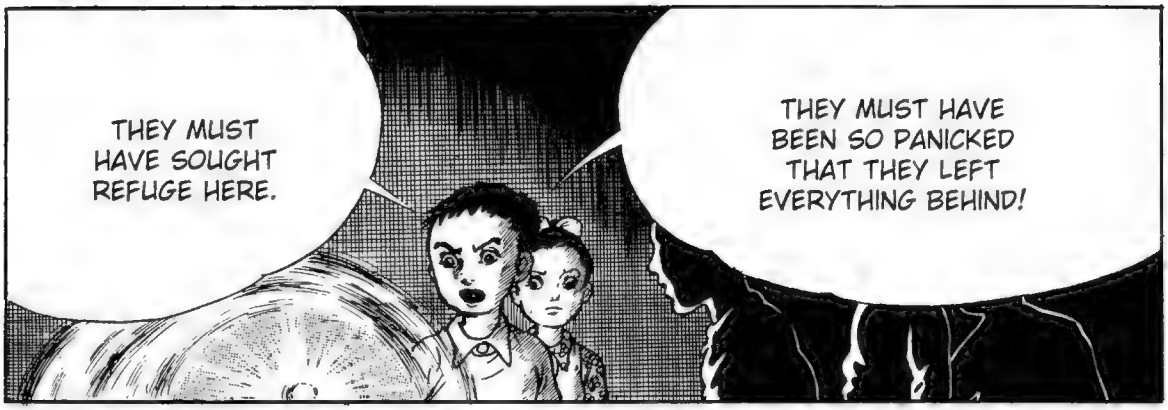
*ABOUT $1,000

IT'S A 100,000 YEN BILL!

PRICES MUST HAVE SKYROCKETED! THAT'S WHY THE BILLS ARE SO LARGE! IS THERE A DATE ON IT?

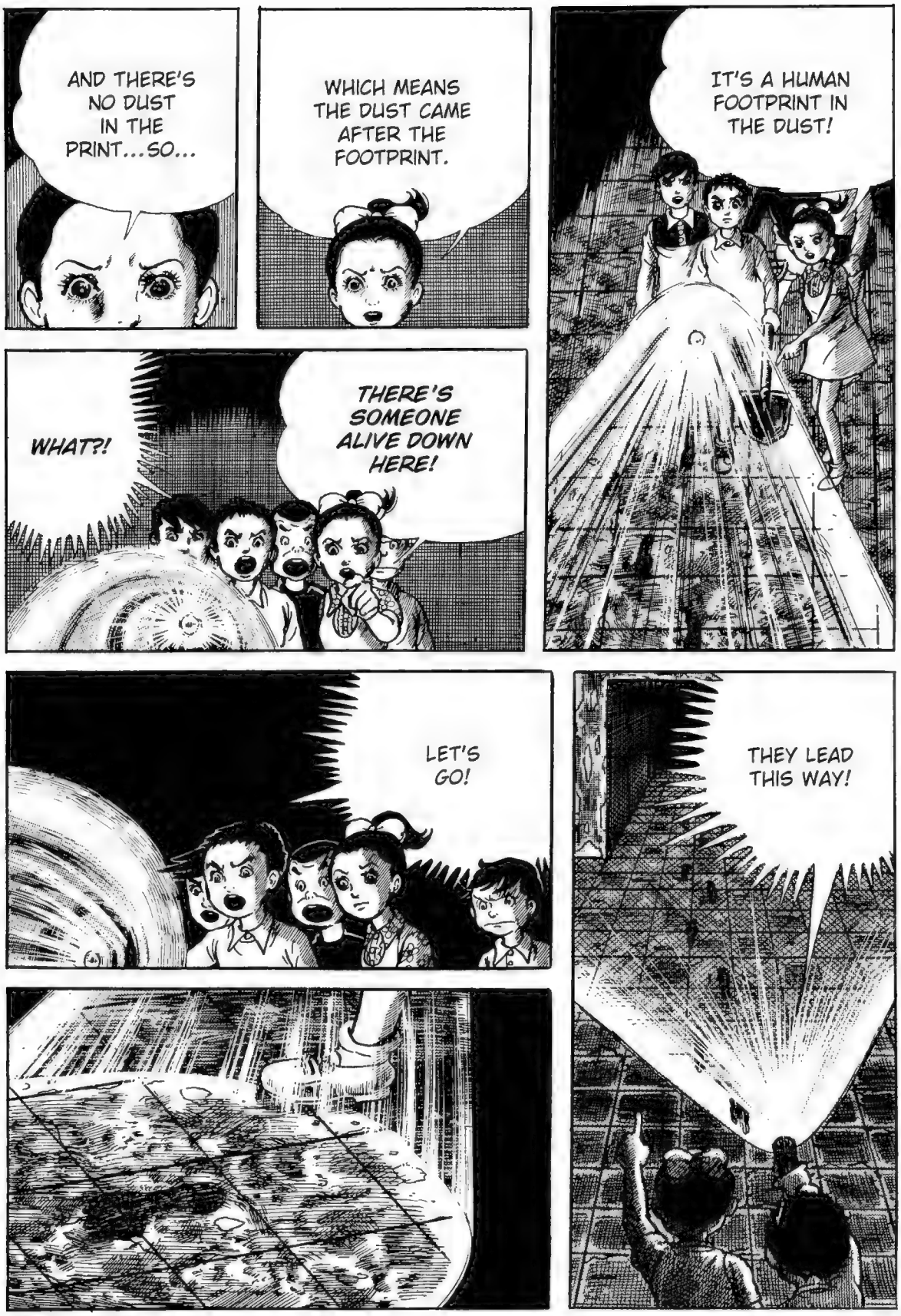

THEY WEREN'T CARRYING THAT MUCH.
I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING ELSE.

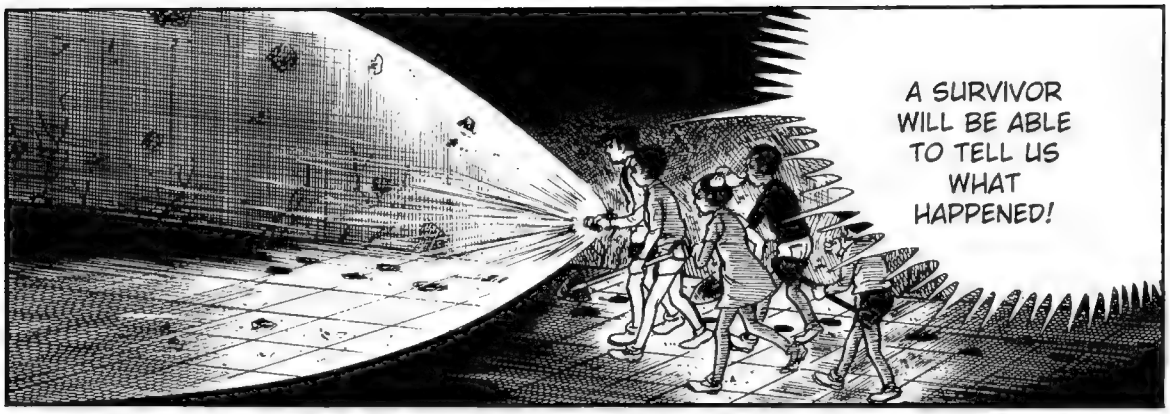
I DON'T SEE ONE...

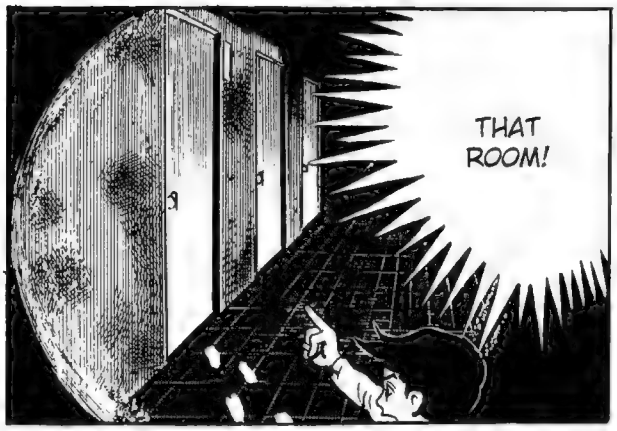

THEY MUST HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE HERE.
THEY MUST HAVE BEEN SO PANICKED THAT THEY LEFT EVERYTHING BEHIND!

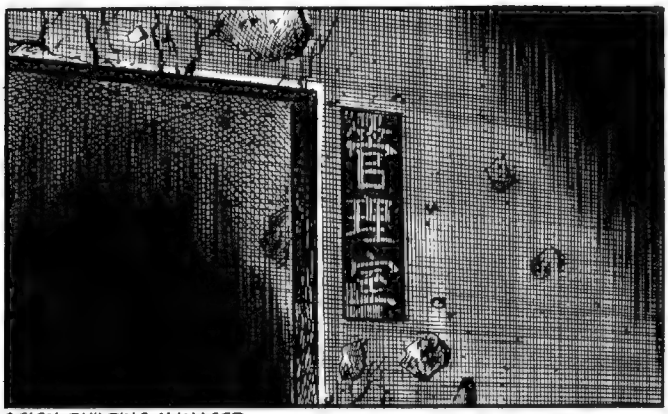
A FOOTPRINT!

WAIT! LOOK!

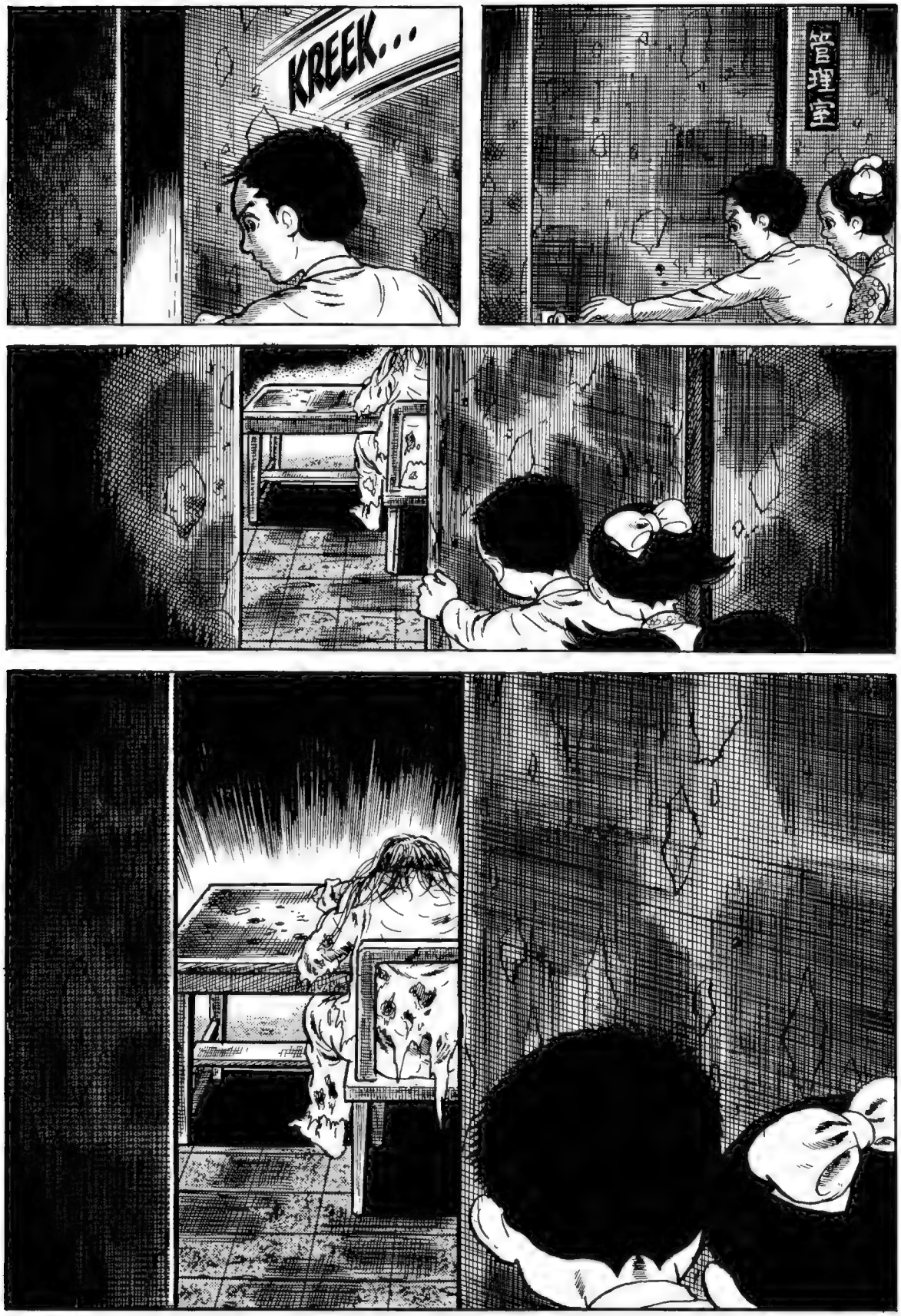

AND THERE'S NO DUST IN THE PRINT...SO...
WHICH MEANS THE DUST CAME AFTER THE FOOTPRINT.
IT'S A HUMAN FOOTPRINT IN THE DUST!
WHAT?!
THERE'S SOMEONE ALIVE DOWN HERE!
LET'S GO!
THEY LEAD THIS WAY!

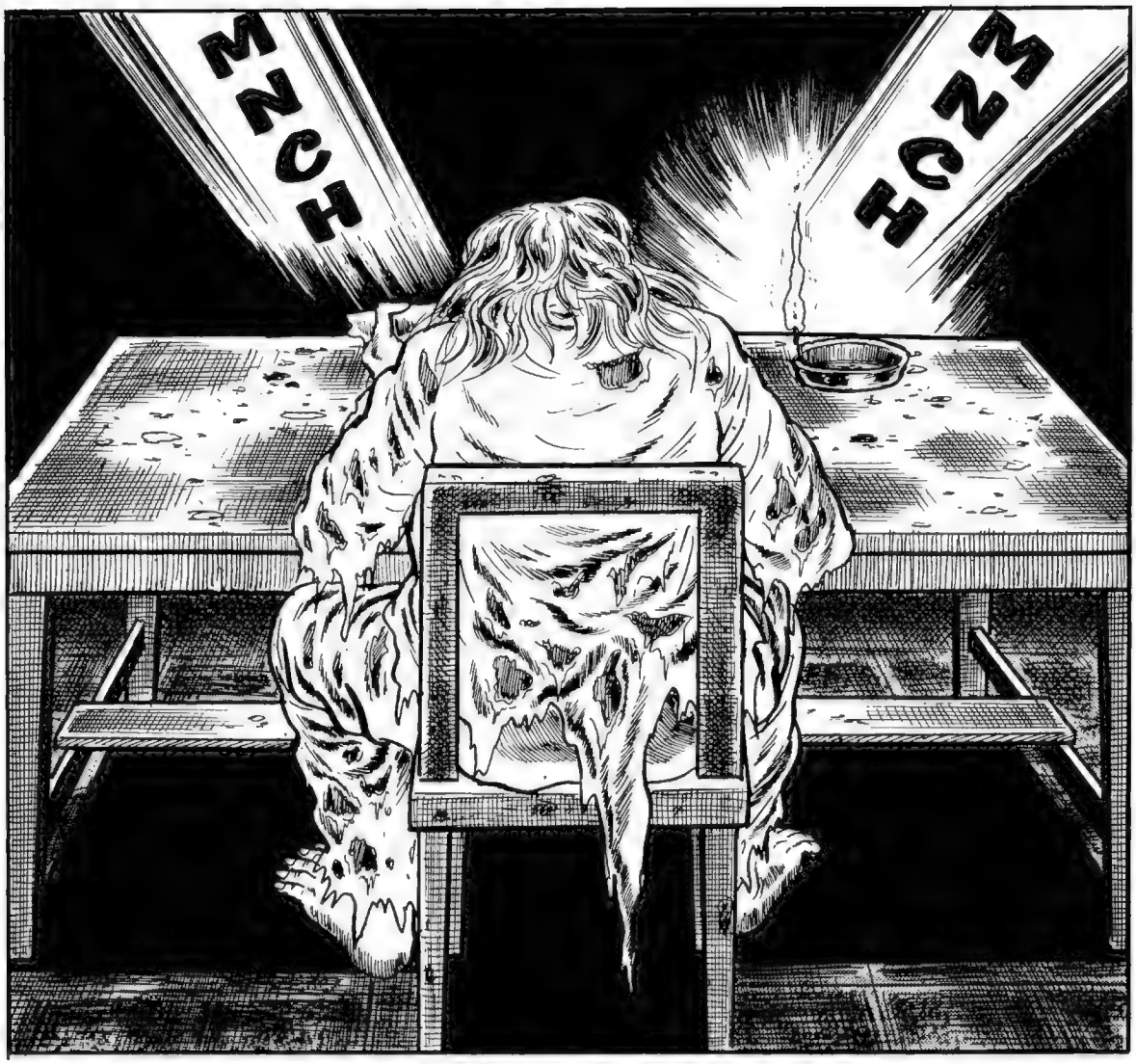


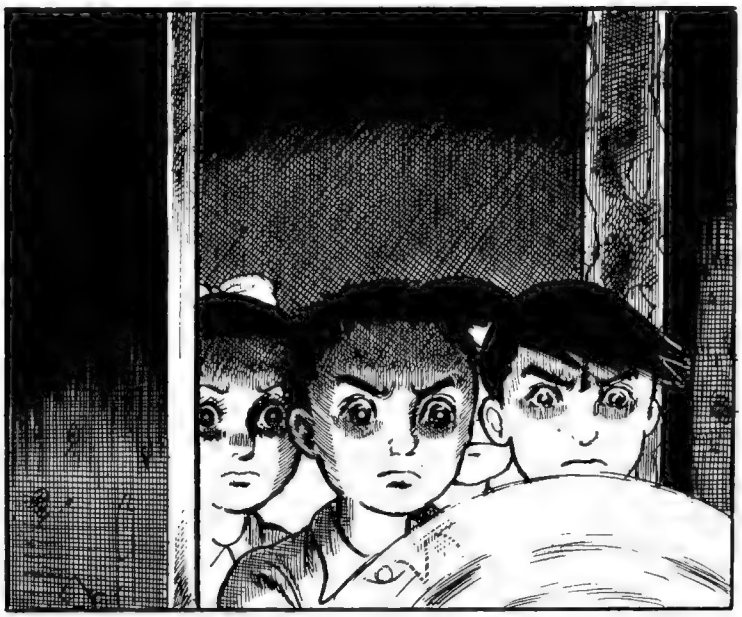


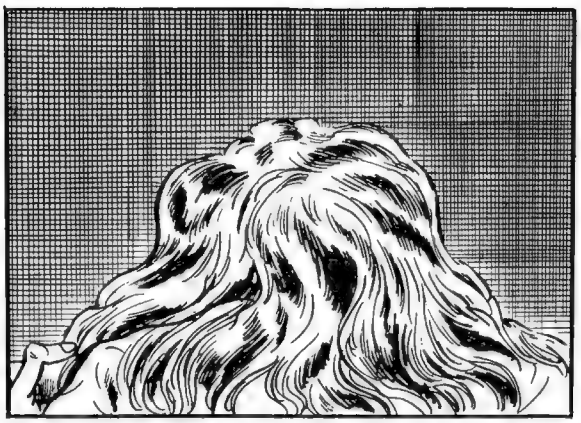


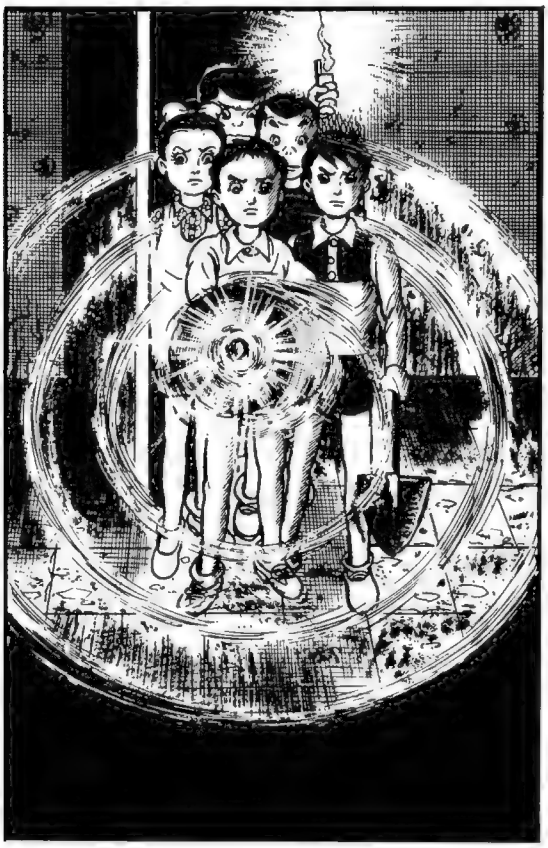
*SIGN=BUILDING MANAGER

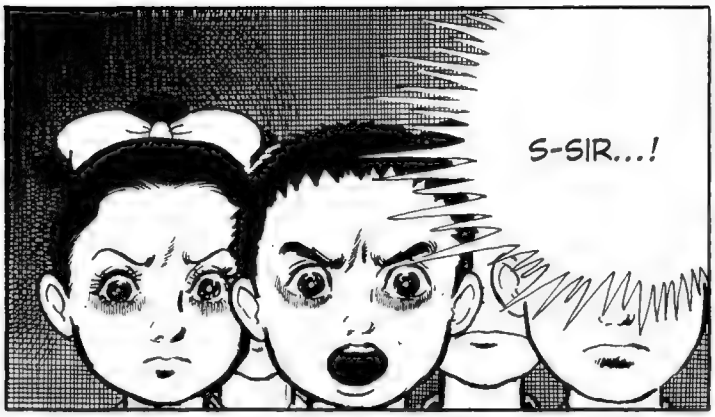

KREEK...
管理室

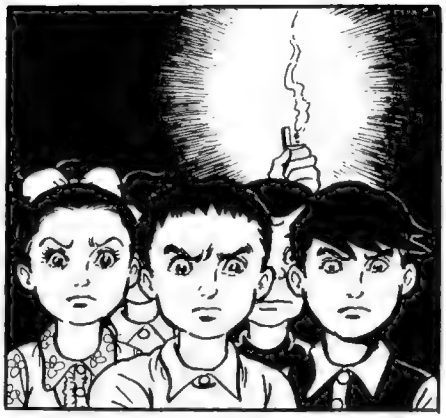

MUCH
MUCH

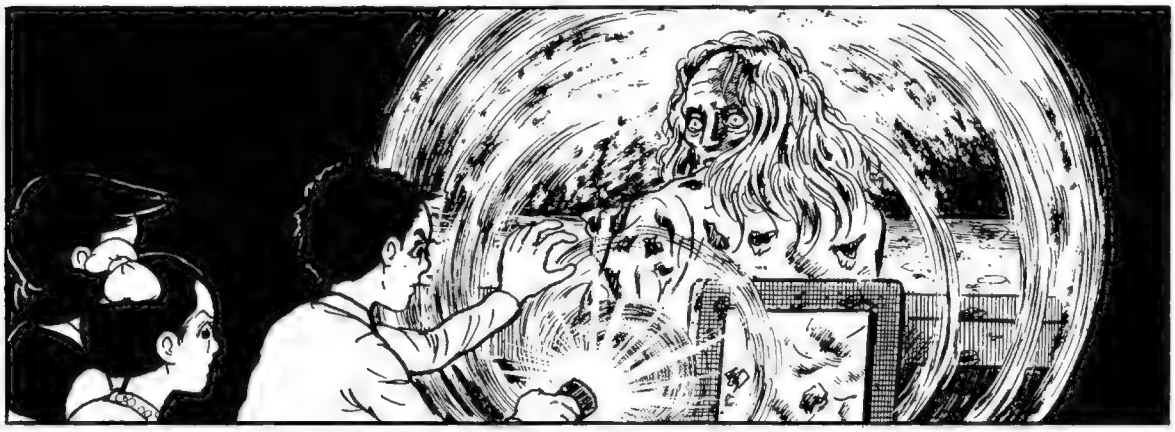







S-SIR...!





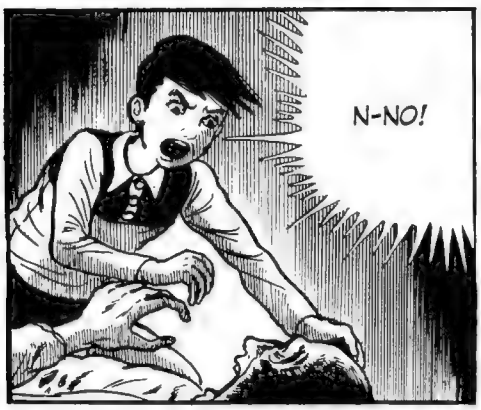
TMP

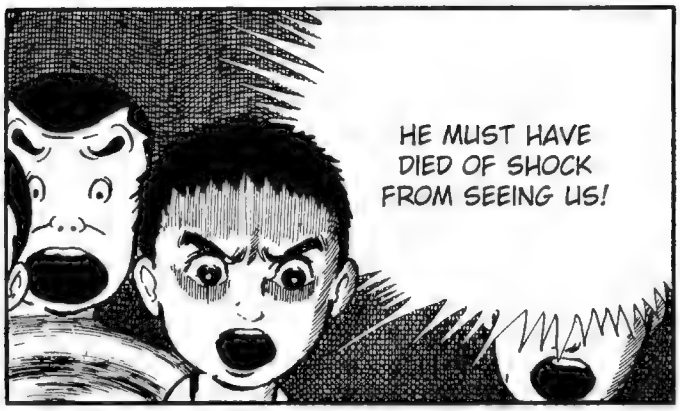
WHUD

GHAAA!!

AAGGH !!
SIR! IT'S OKAY!

MISTER!
AHH!
TUMP
WH-WHY?!
H-HE'S DEAD!

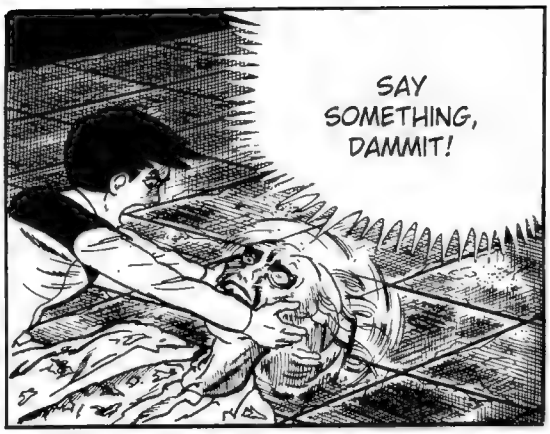

N-NO!

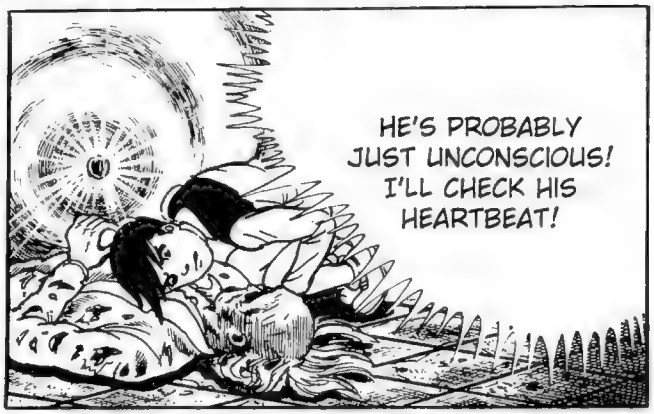

HE MUST HAVE DIED OF SHOCK FROM SEEING US!

WAKE UP!

COME ON!

CALM DOWN!
WAKE UP!

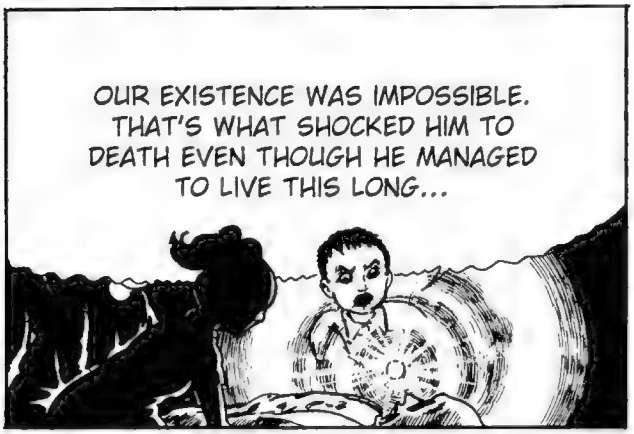

SAY SOMETHING, DAMMIT!


HE'S PROBABLY JUST UNCONSCIOUS! I'LL CHECK HIS HEARTBEAT!

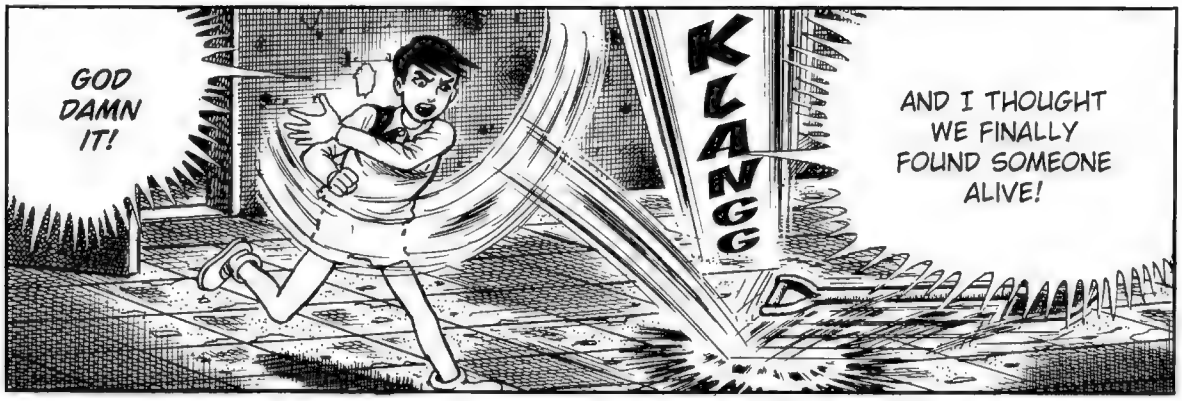
HIS LEGS ARE SO FRAIL! THE SKIN'S SO ROUGH! HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN YOUNG OR OLD...THE ONLY THING WE KNOW IS THAT HE BARELY SURVIVED!

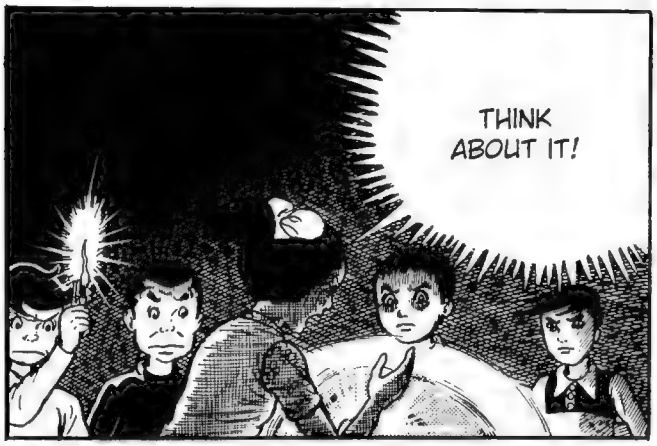
SO ARE HIS FEET!

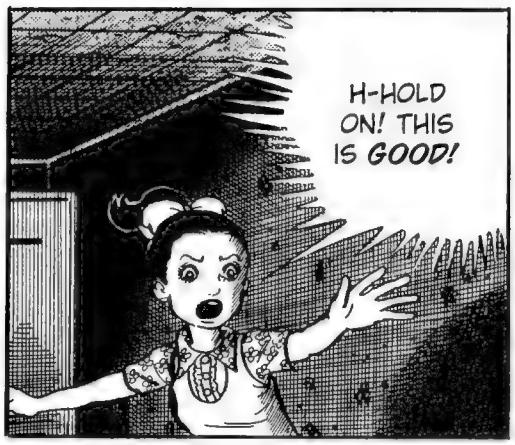
HIS HANDS ARE GETTING COLD!


OUR EXISTENCE WAS IMPOSSIBLE. THAT'S WHAT SHOCKED HIM TO DEATH EVEN THOUGH HE MANAGED TO LIVE THIS LONG...

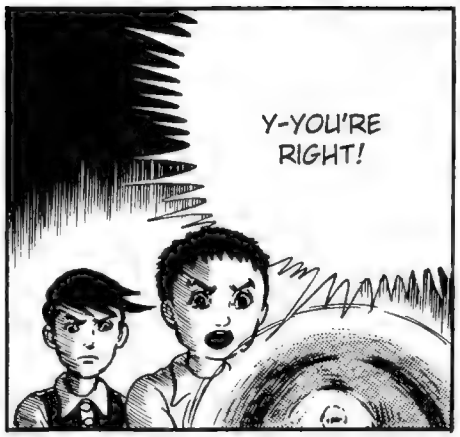
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO TELL US EVERYTHING. NOW IT'S ALL RUINED!


GOD DAMN IT!
KLANGG
AND I THOUGHT WE FINALLY FOUND SOMEONE ALIVE!

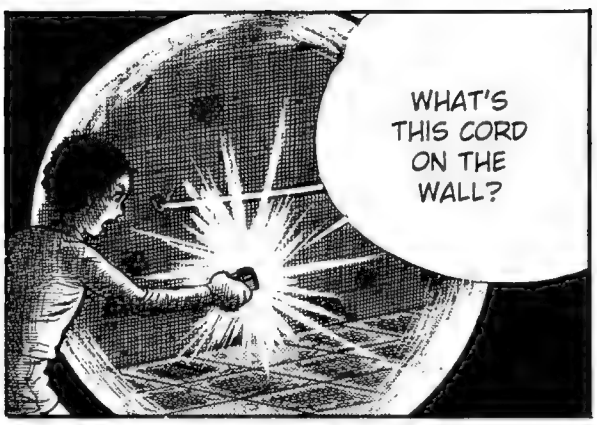

THINK ABOUT IT!


H-HOLD ON! THIS IS GOOD!

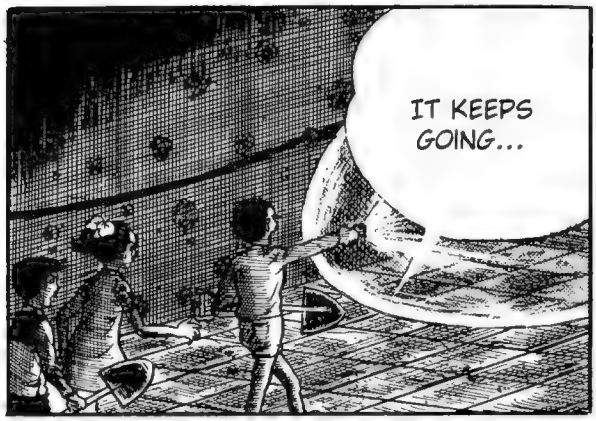
WE'RE TRYING TO BUILD A WELL, RIGHT!?


Y-YOU'RE RIGHT!

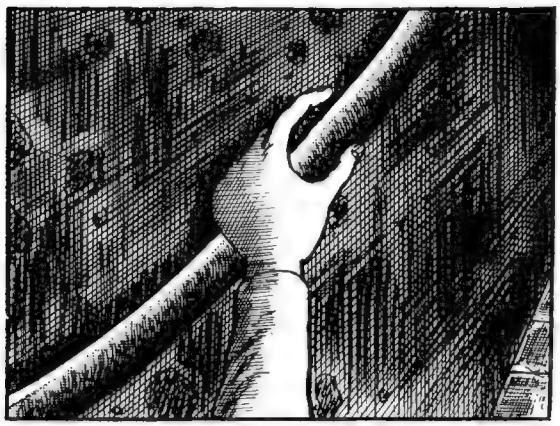
THE FACT THAT HE MANAGED TO SURVIVE THIS LONG MUST MEAN THERE'S WATER SOMEWHERE!


WHAT'S THIS CORD ON THE WALL?

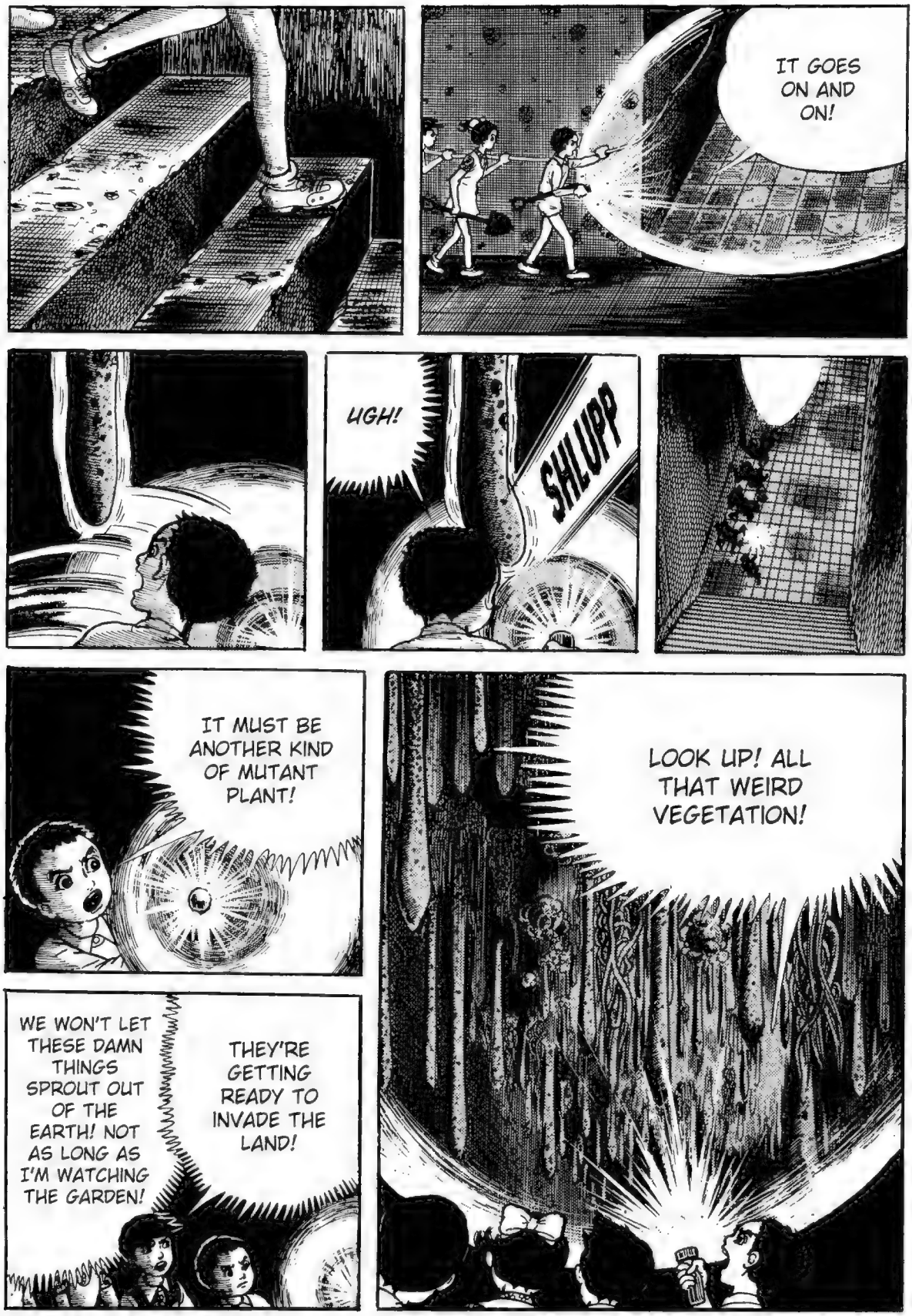
WE'LL FOLLOW HIS FOOT-PRINTS!

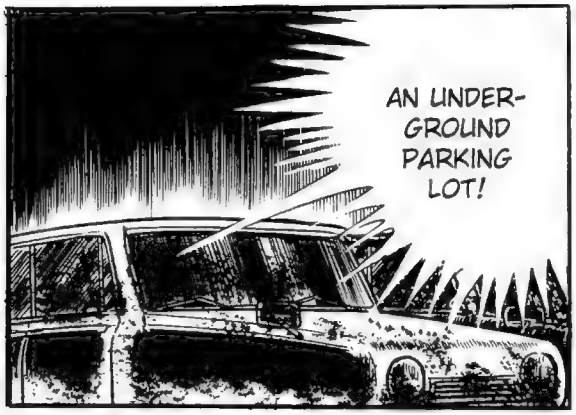

IT KEEPS GOING...

HE MIGHT HAVE USED IT TO FIND HIS WAY IN THE DARK!



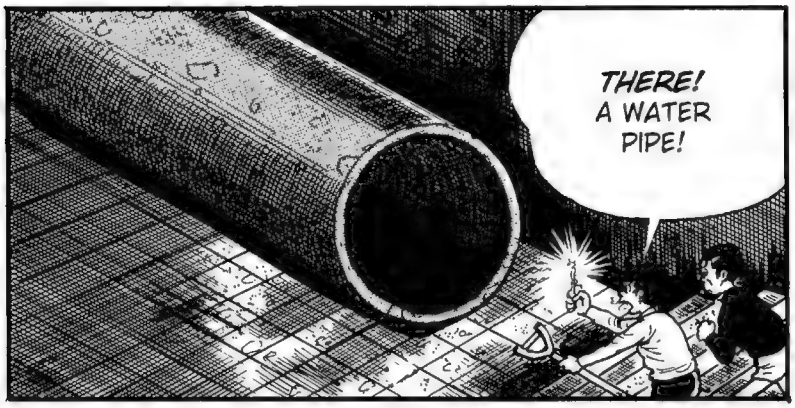
MAYBE IT LEADS TO HIS WATER SUPPLY!

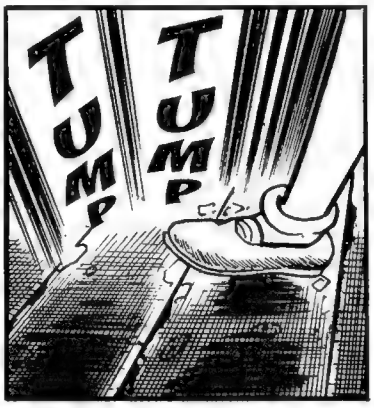

IT GOES ON AND ON!
UGH!
SHLUPP
IT MUST BE ANOTHER KIND OF MUTANT PLANT!
LOOK UP! ALL THAT WEIRD VEGETATION!
WE WON'T LET THESE DAMN THINGS SPROUT OUT OF THE EARTH! NOT AS LONG AS I'M WATCHING THE GARDEN!
THEY'RE GETTING READY TO INVADE THE LAND!


AN UNDER-GROUND PARKING LOT!

MAYBE THERE'S WATER PIPES OR SOMETHING!
TAKAMATSU, THE CORD GOES DOWN THESE STAIRS!

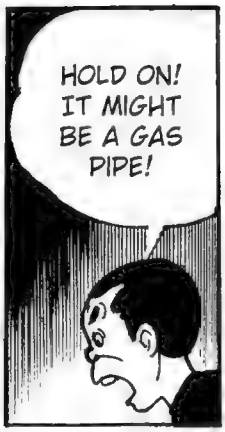
WE'RE REALLY IN THE RUINS OF TOKYO!


THERE! A WATER PIPE!

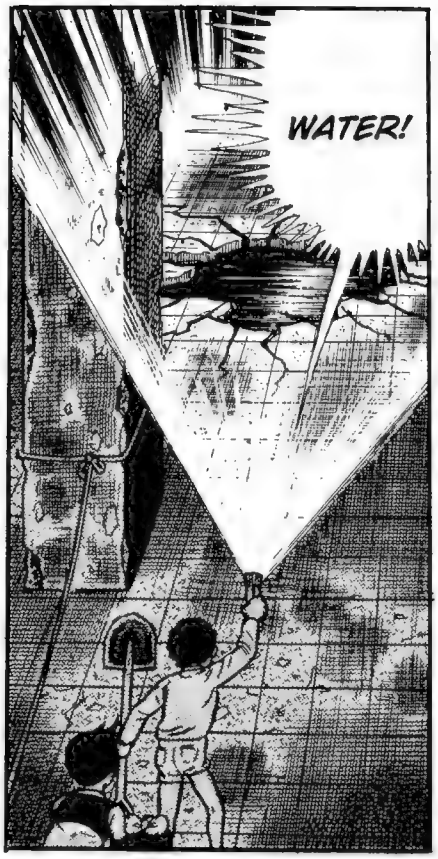

TUMP
TUMP

GONGG
GONGG
HEAR THAT ECHO? IT MUST GO DOWN FAR.

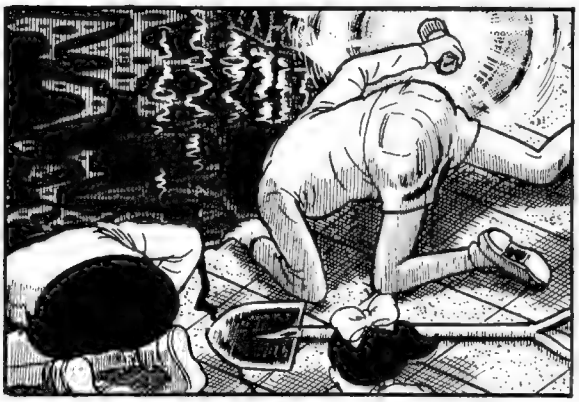
IT LEADS INTO THE GROUND SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN USED TO EXTRACT SOMETHING.

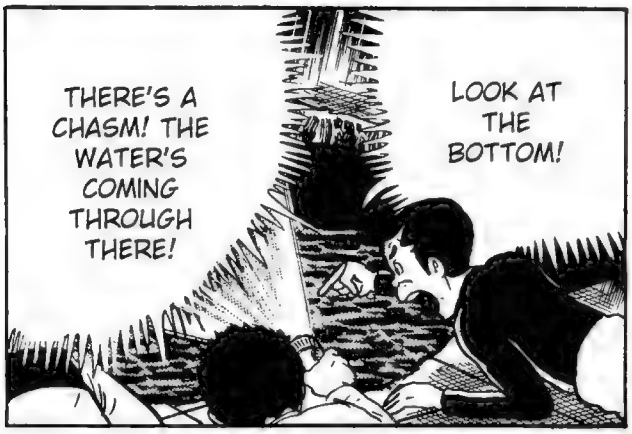

HOLD ON! IT MIGHT BE A GAS PIPE!

HOORAY!


WATER!

GLUG
GLUG



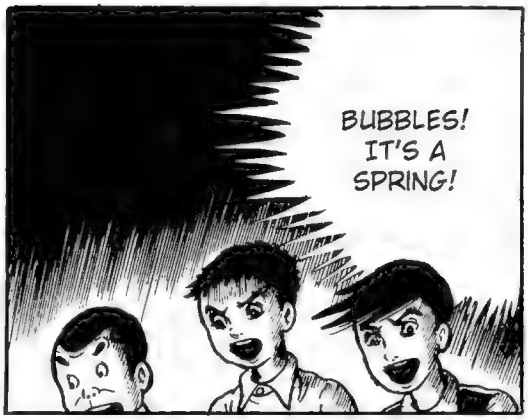

THERE'S A CHASM! THE WATER'S COMING THROUGH THERE!
LOOK AT THE BOTTOM!

HUH?
WHAT IS THIS POOL DOING HERE...?

SEE!

BLUP

THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A TREMOR!
WH-WHY WOULD THERE BE A SPRING IN A PARKING LOT?


BUBBLES! IT'S A SPRING!

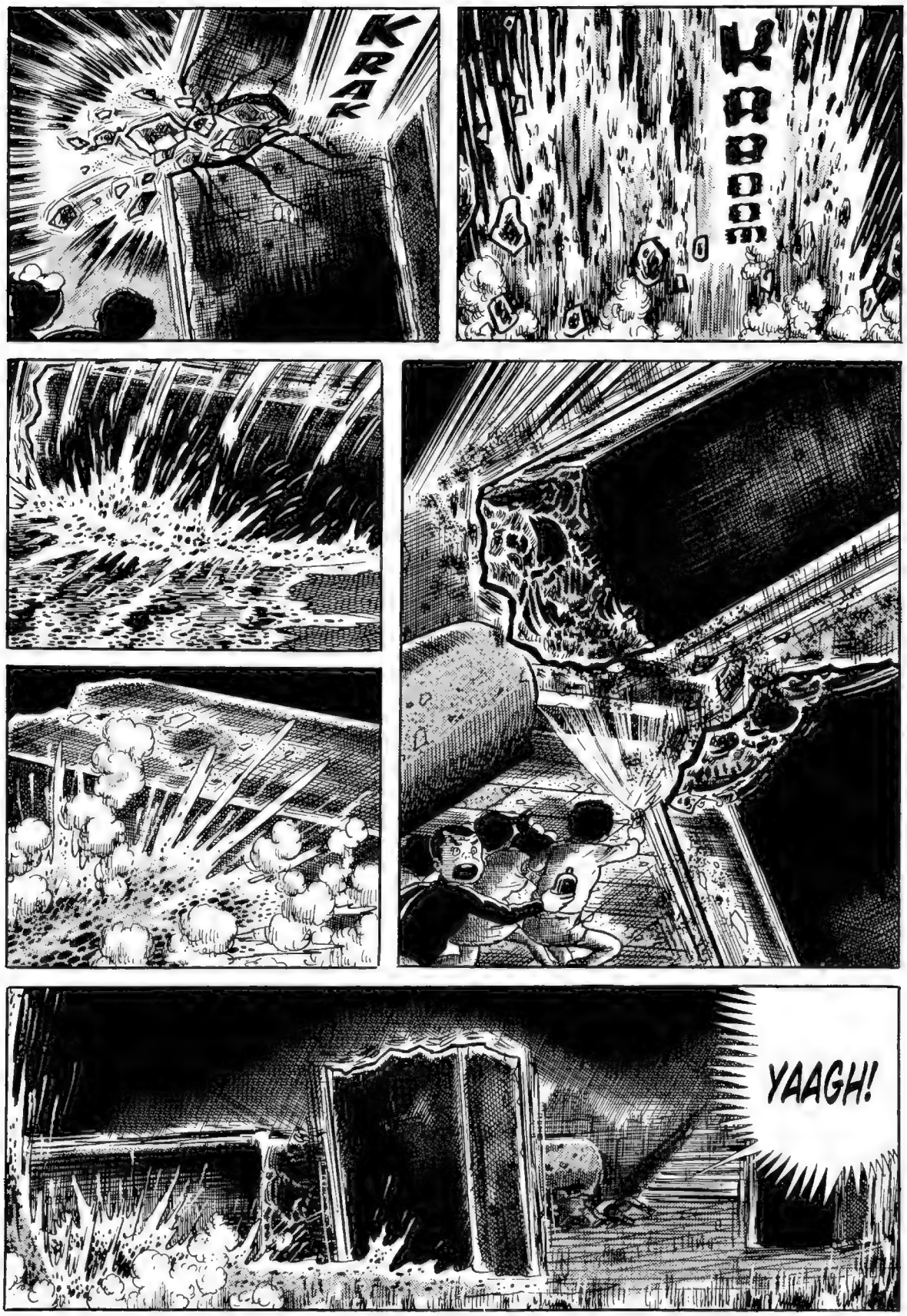
WAIT 'TILL WE TELL EVERYONE BACK AT SCHOOL!

I'LL FILL MY SHOE UP TO PROVE IT!
I BET THEY WON'T BELIEVE US!

LOOK HOW CLEAR IT IS!

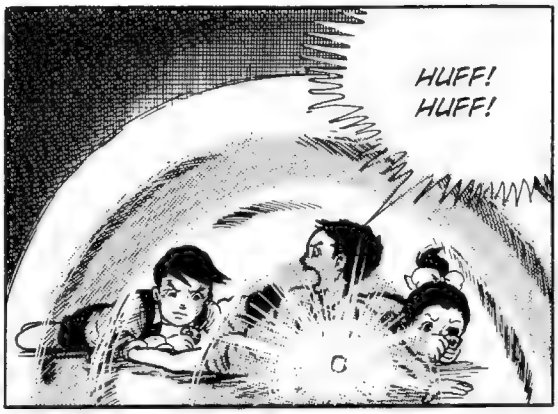
SEE? AN EMPTY CAN!
WAIT! I'M SURE WE CAN FIND SOMETHING BETTER!
I'LL SOAK MY HANDKERCHIEF IN THE WATER!
THEN THEY'LL BELIEVE US!
WE'LL FILL THESE UP AND SHOW EVERYONE!
A WHISKEY BOTTLE! AWESOME!
AHH, IT'S NICE AND COLD!
AIEEE!
FWOOSH
BLUP
BLUP

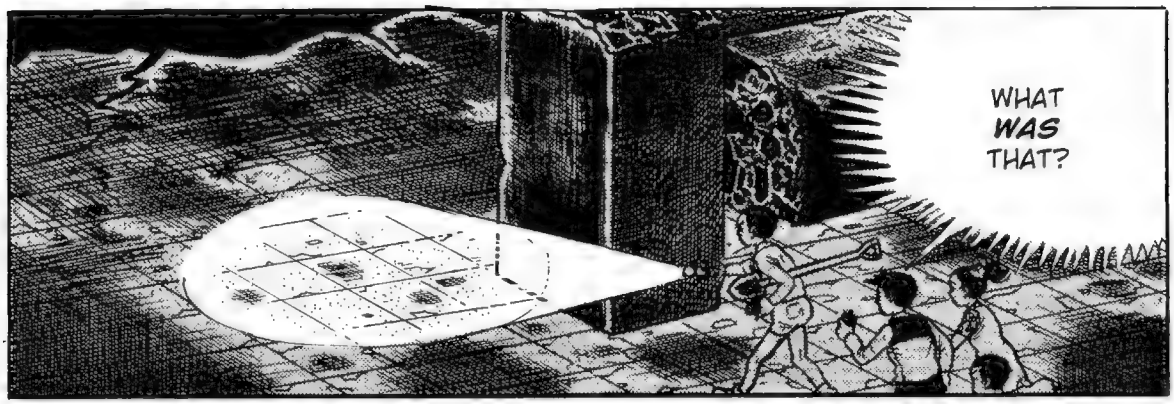
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHOA!
IT'S HOT!
OWW!
WAHH!
GGGGK


KRAK
KAAAAM
YAAGH!

FWOSH

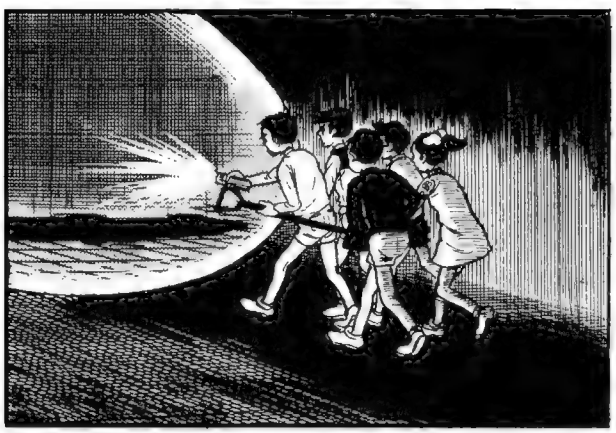
Y-YEAH!
IS EVERYONE OKAY?

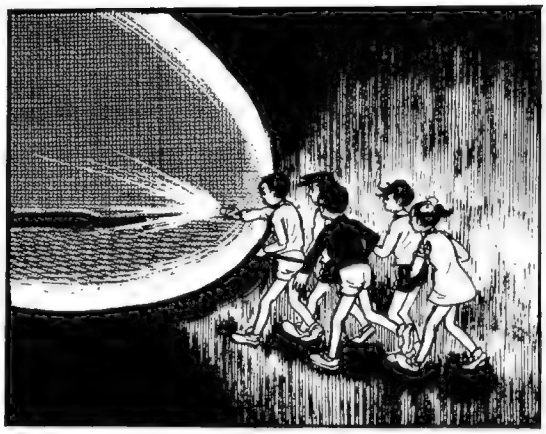

HUFF! HUFF!

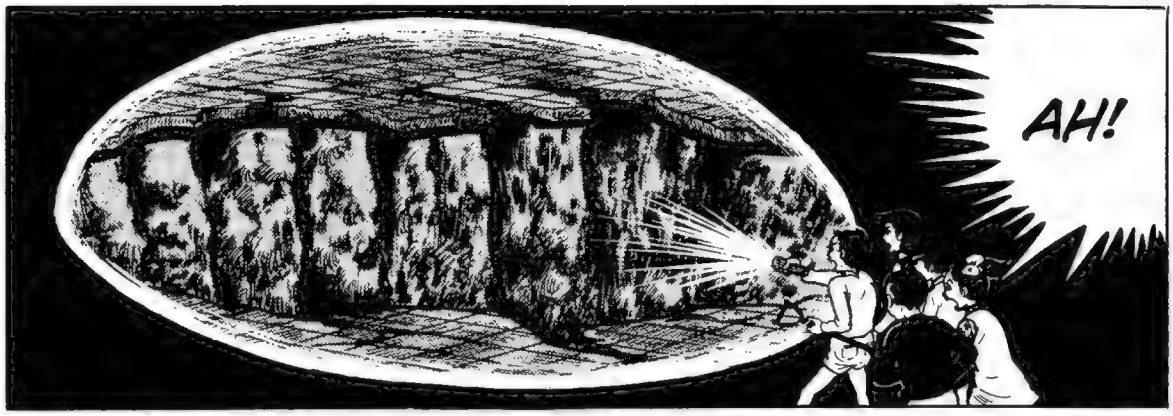

WHAT WAS THAT?

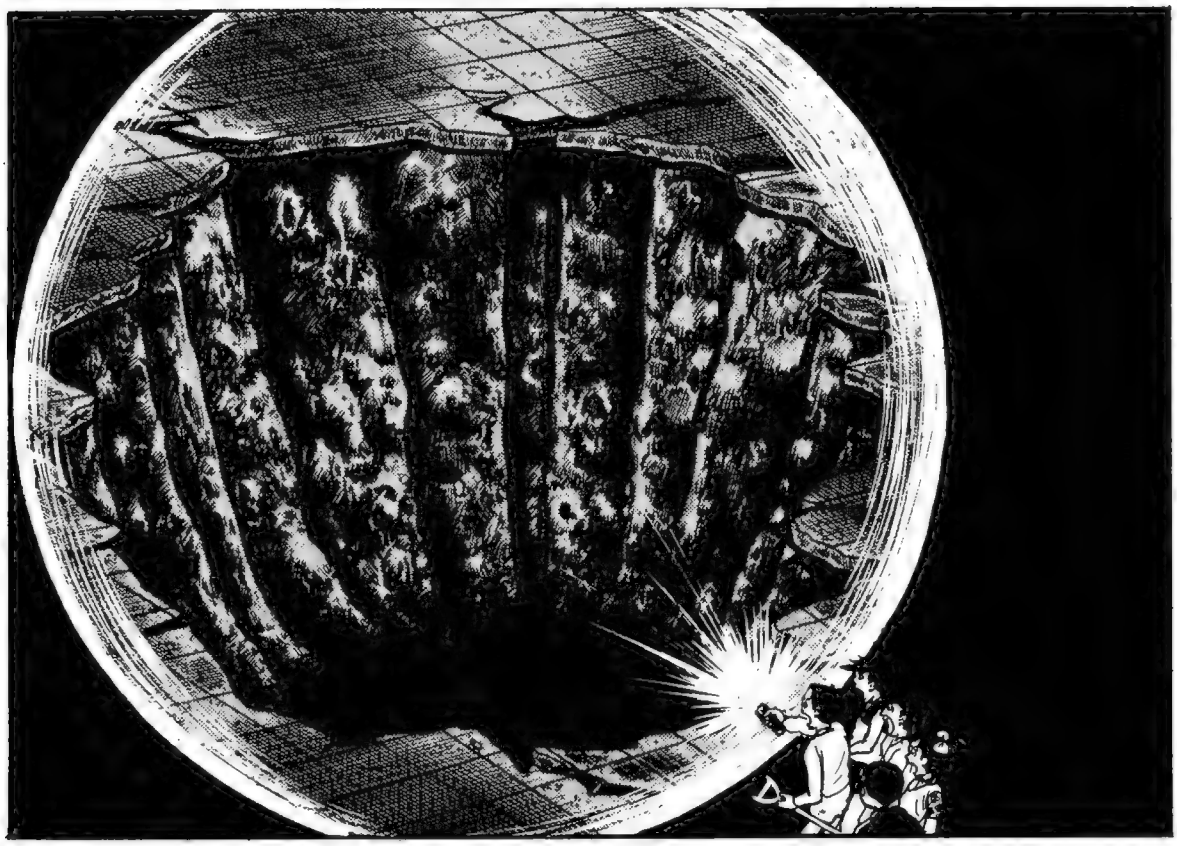
BE CAREFUL! LET'S WALK UP SLOWLY...!

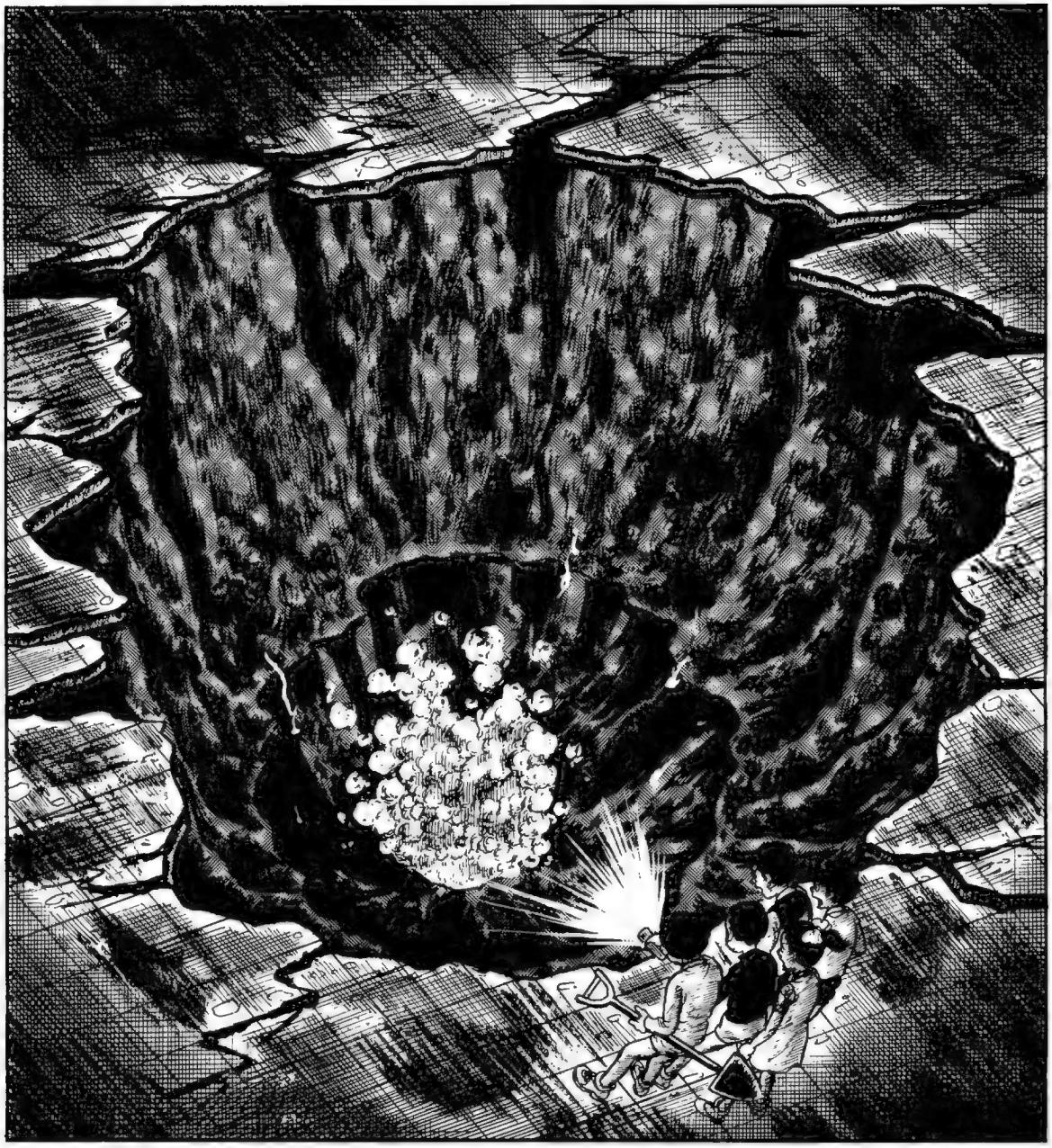
WHAT ?!
WH-WHAT HAPPENED?! THE WATER'S GONE!



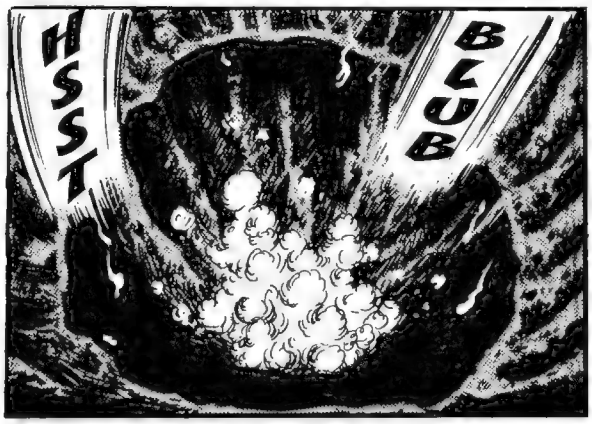


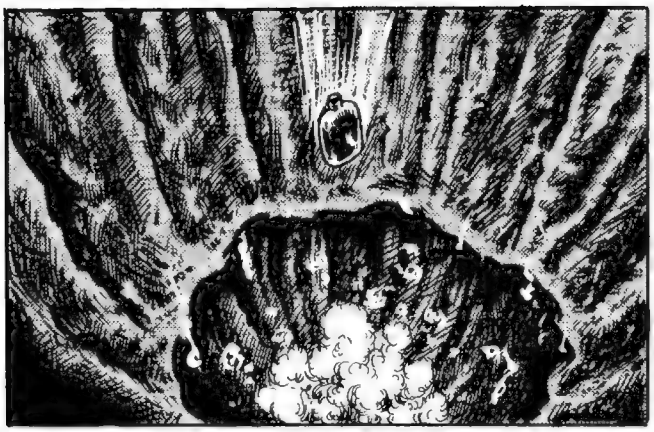

AH!

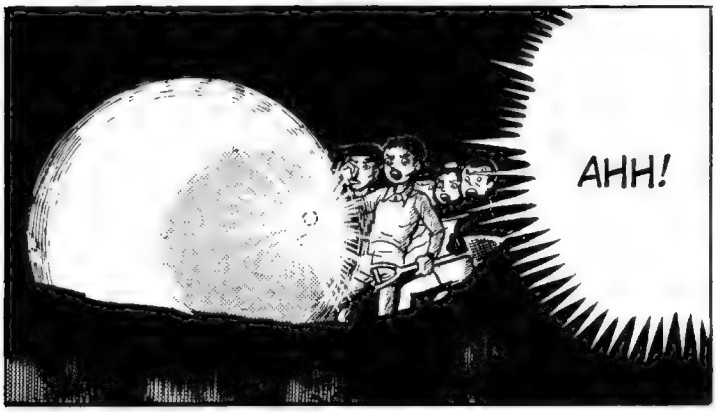


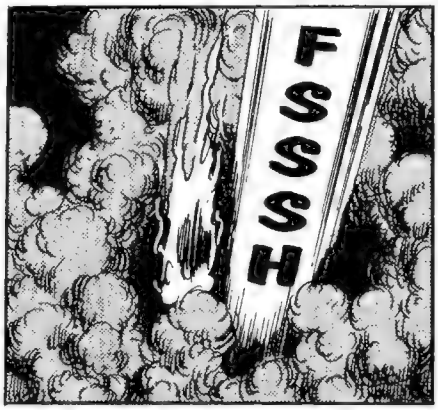


WHAT THE--?!


HSST
BLUB




AHH!


FSSSH

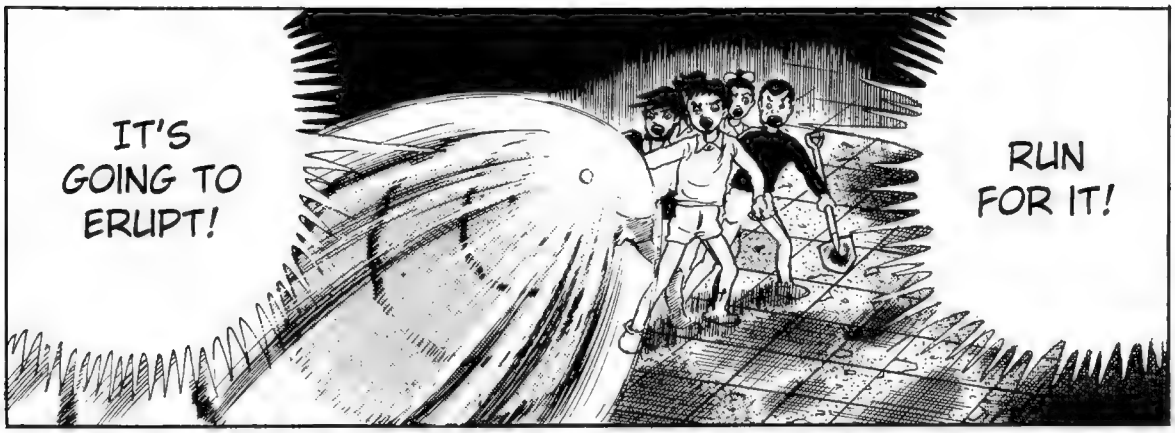
IT'S LAVA!

IT'S A VOLCANO! LAVA'S SPILLING OUT FROM CRACKS IN THE EARTH!

IF IT ERUPTS, THE SCHOOL WILL BE BURIED IN ASH AND MOLTEN LAVA!
I-IT'S PROBABLY FROM DIGGING UP THE EARTH SO MUCH!

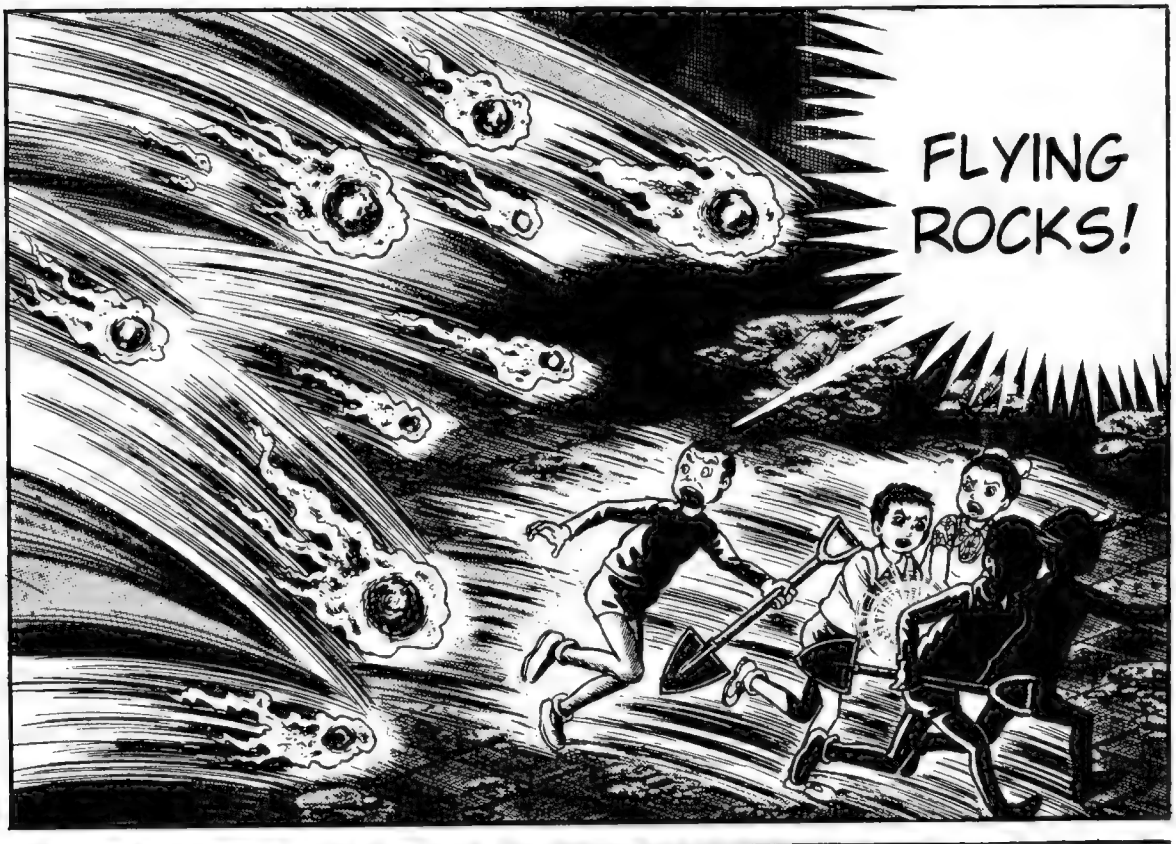
GROOO

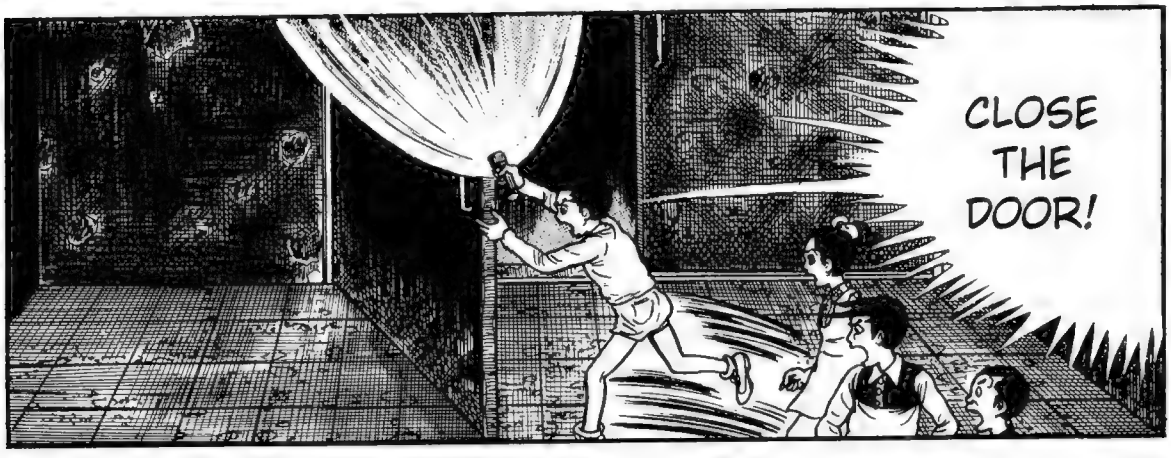
AAGH!


IT'S GOING TO ERUPT!
RUN FOR IT!

UWAAAH!

EYAAH!

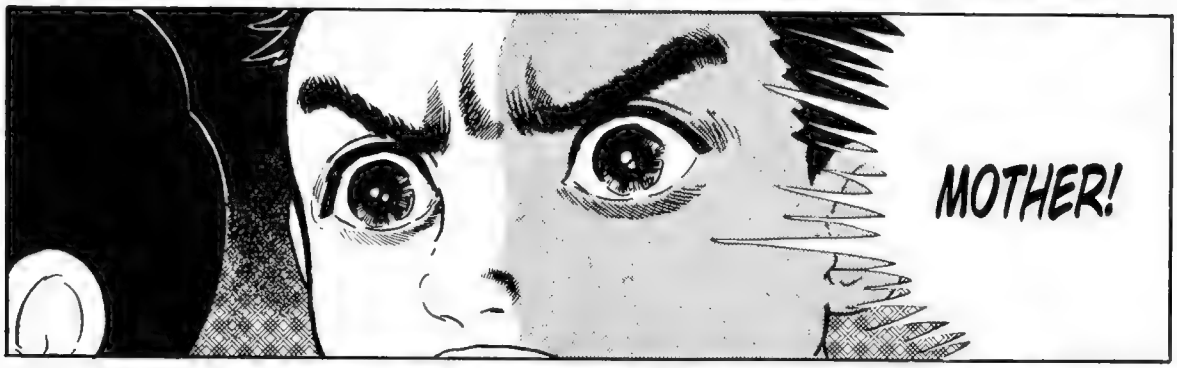

FLYING ROCKS!


CLOSE THE DOOR!

WH-WHAT DO WE DO NOW? THIS IS SERIOUS!

SLAM

IF IT'S A MAJOR VOLCANO, IT COULD DESTROY EVERYTHING FOR MILES AROUND! INCLUDING US!

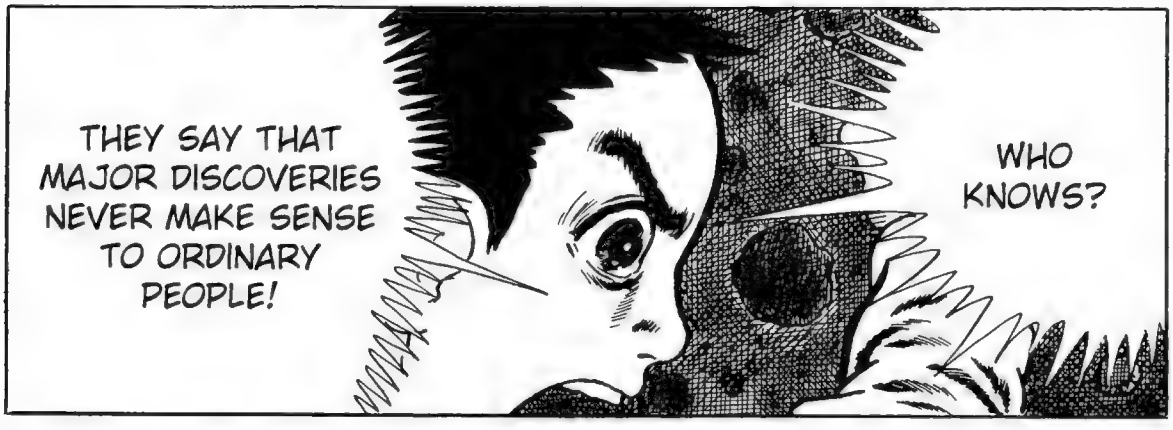

MOTHER!

ARRGH!
THOOM

WE'LL USE A ROCK TO BLOCK THE DOOR!
NO, WE HAVE TO STOP IT HERE! OTHERWISE THE LAVA WILL POUR THROUGH!
L-LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! IT'S NOT SAFE!
THAT ONE! BRING IT OVER!
HURRY!

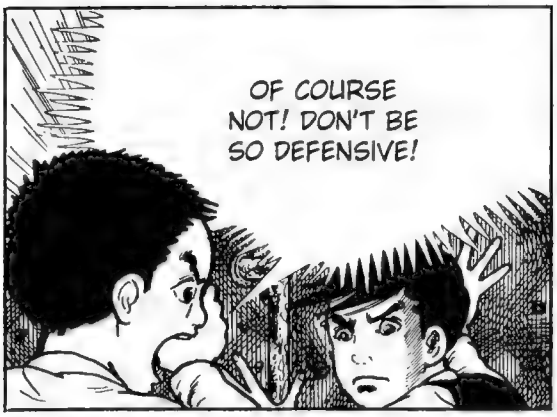
THAT PIPE MUST HAVE CREATED A HOLE IN THE EARTH'S CRUST!

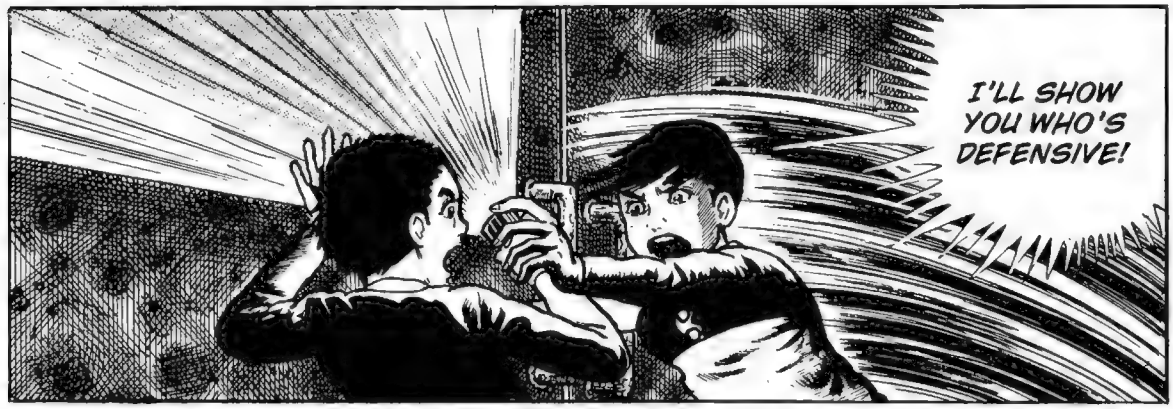
BUT WHY WOULD THAT MAKE A VOLCANO?!


THEY SAY THAT MAJOR DISCOVERIES NEVER MAKE SENSE TO ORDINARY PEOPLE!
WHO KNOWS?

"ORDINARY PEOPLE"? ARE YOU SAYING I'M STUPID?!

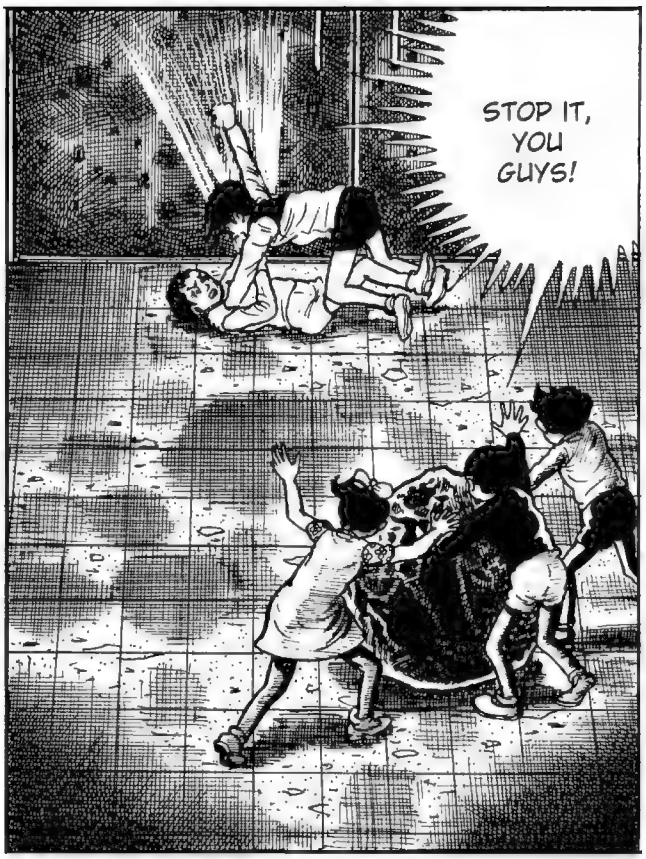
WHAT?!


OF COURSE NOT! DON'T BE SO DEFENSIVE!


I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S DEFENSIVE!

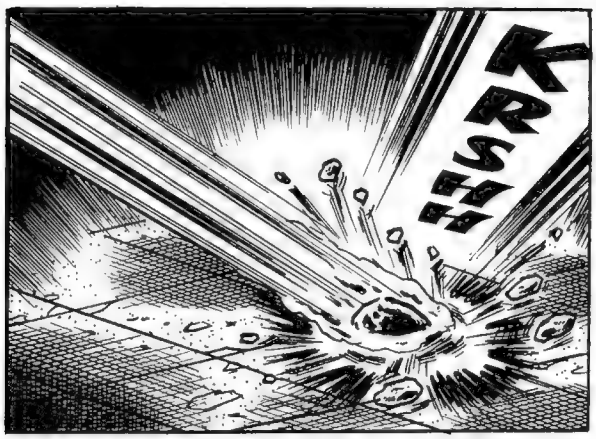
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS AGAINST ME?!

I SAID, STOP IT!


STOP IT, YOU GUYS!

OWW!

FOOM

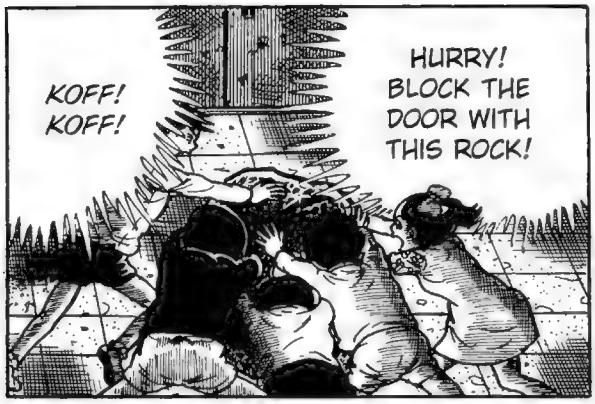

KRSH

LEAVE ME ALONE! I'M SICK OF HIM!

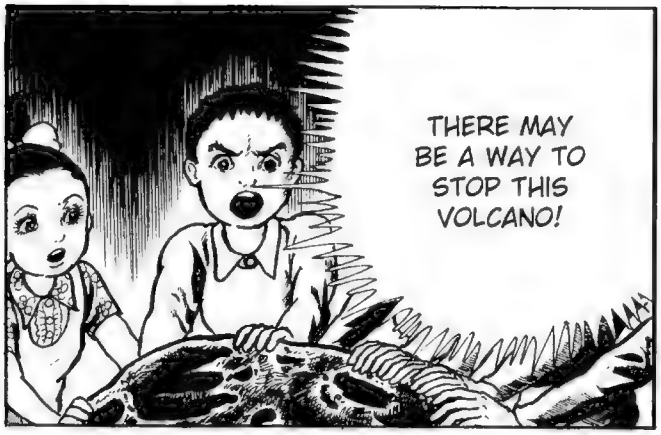
KOFF KOFF!

SLAM

AIEEE!

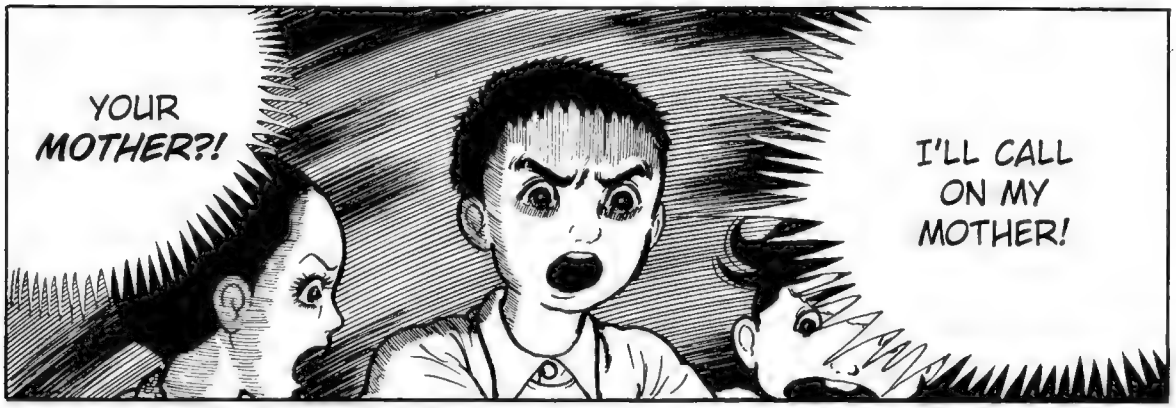

KOFF! KOFF!
HURRY! BLOCK THE DOOR WITH THIS ROCK!

IT SMELLS LIKE SULPHUR!
STOP FIGHTING! THE PLACE IS FILLING UP WITH SMOKE!

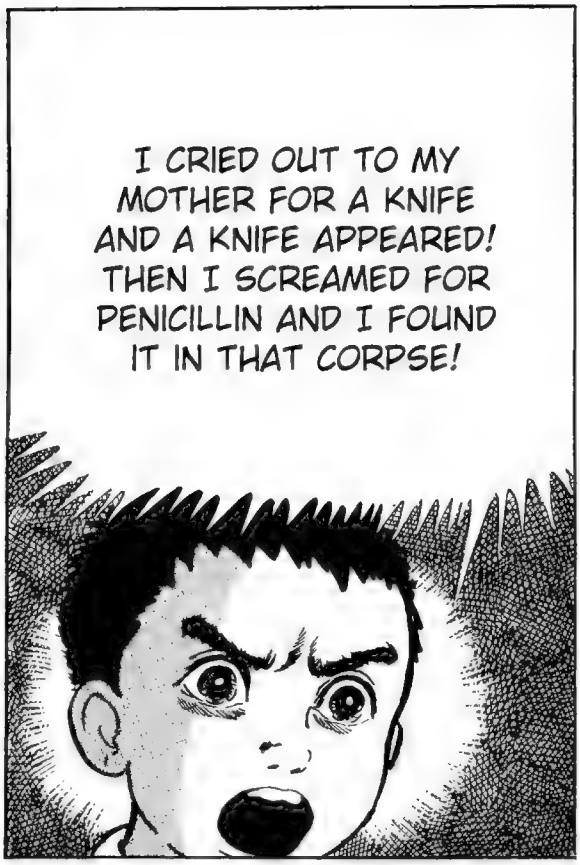

THERE MAY BE A WAY TO STOP THIS VOLCANO!

BANGG

WHAT?!


YOUR MOTHER?!
I'LL CALL ON MY MOTHER!

I NEVER TOLD YOU, BUT SHE'S ALREADY SAVED ME TWICE!


I CRIED OUT TO MY MOTHER FOR A KNIFE AND A KNIFE APPEARED! THEN I SCREAMED FOR PENICILLIN AND I FOUND IT IN THAT CORPSE!

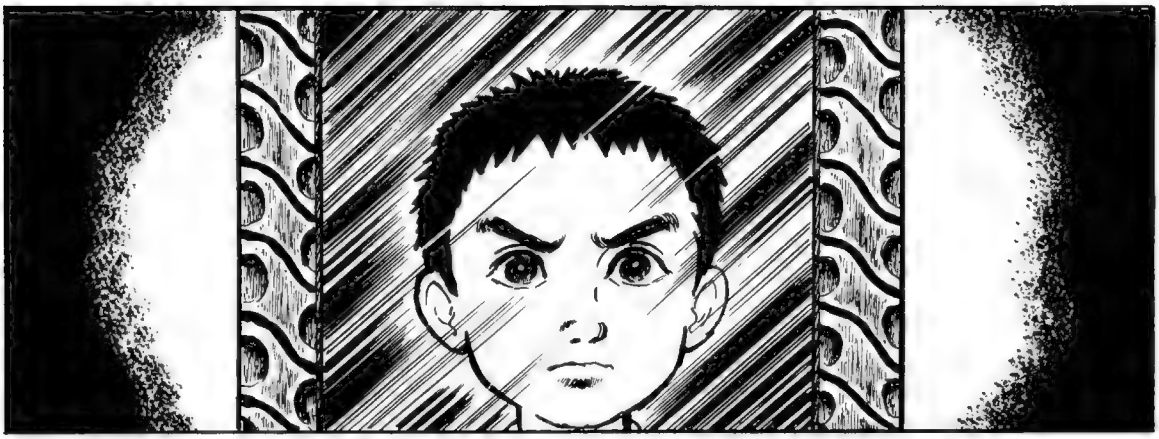
SO I'M GOING TO ASK HER AGAIN!

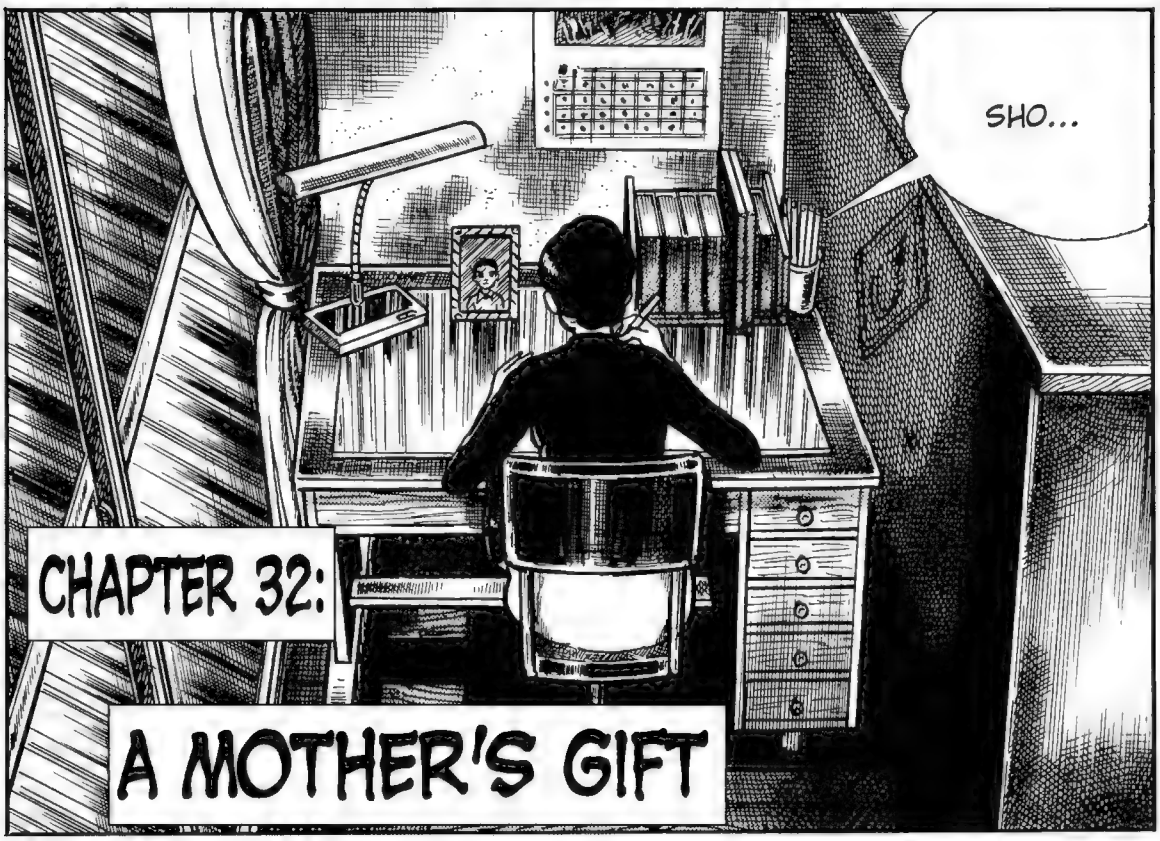
THEN THE VOLCANO WILL DISAPPEAR!
I'LL ASK HER TO STOP THE PIPE FROM BEING BUILT HERE.

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!

WH-WHAT?!

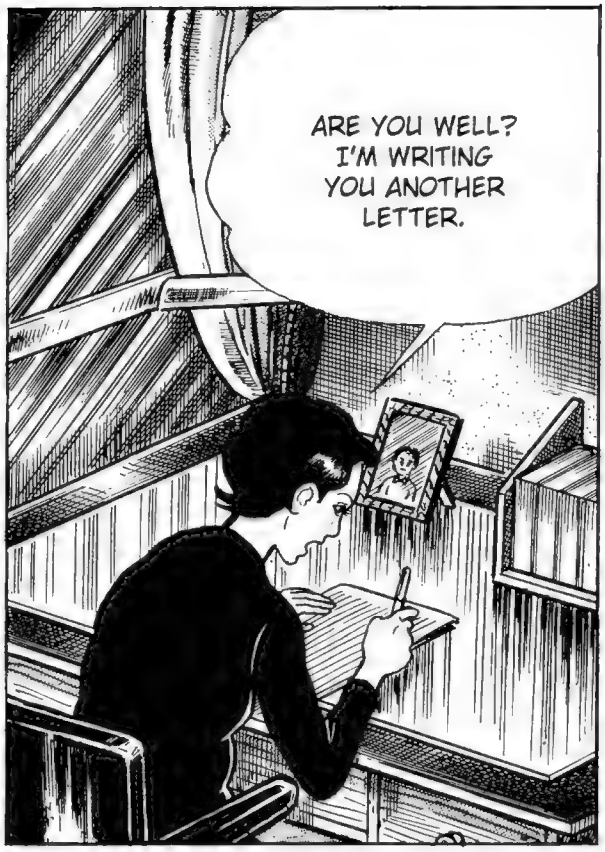
MOTHER! PLEASE LISTEN!
PLEASE STOP THEM FROM BUILDING A PIPE HERE!
MOTHER! PLEASE!
IF YOU DON'T, WE'LL ALL DIE!




SHO...
CHAPTER 32:
A MOTHER'S GIFT

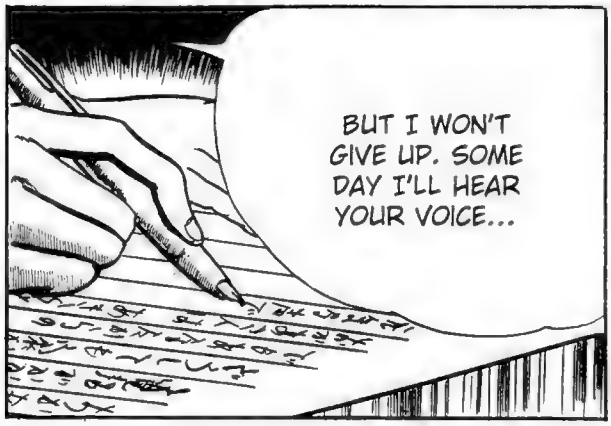
THIS IS THE 20TH TIME I'VE WRITTEN TO YOU.

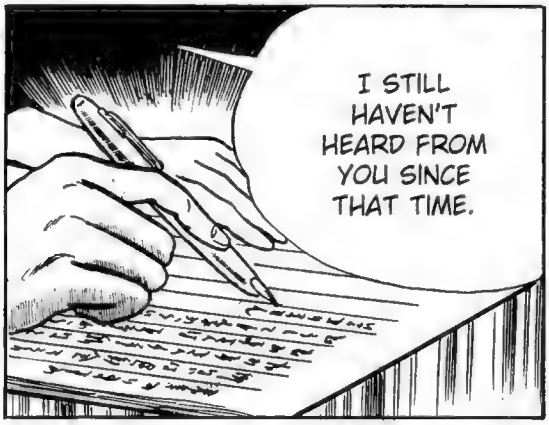
THE TOWN IS BUSY WITH THE ATHLETIC FESTIVAL.


ARE YOU WELL? I'M WRITING YOU ANOTHER LETTER.

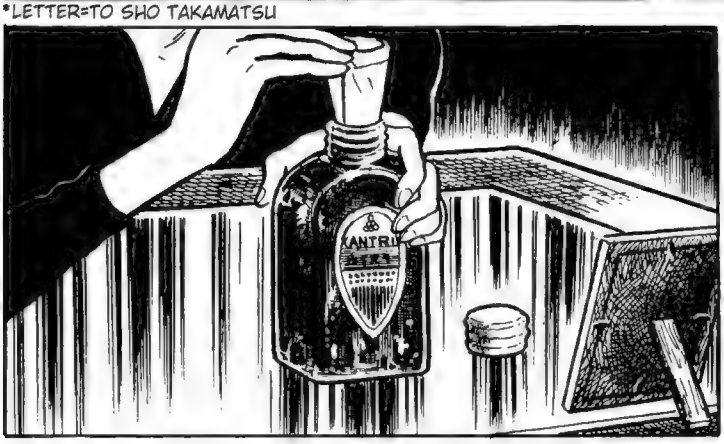
I CAN'T LEAVE THIS HOUSE FOR FEAR YOU MIGHT CALL ME ON THE PHONE.

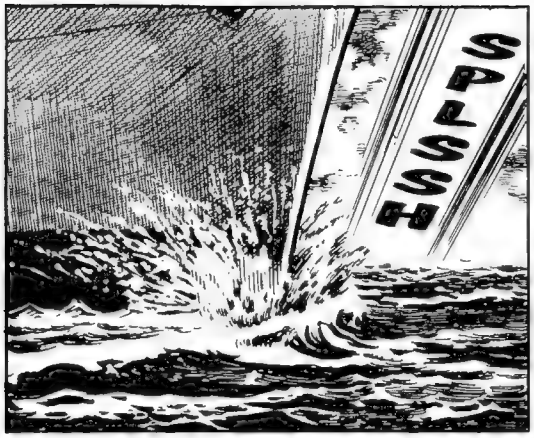
HAVE YOU GOTTEN MY LETTERS?

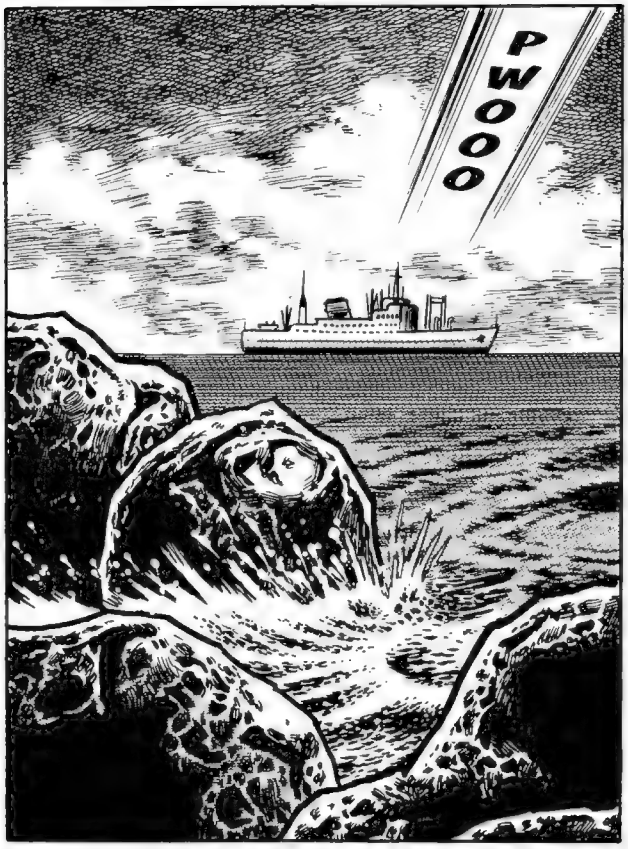

BUT I WON'T GIVE UP. SOME DAY I'LL HEAR YOUR VOICE...


I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU SINCE THAT TIME.

*LETTER=TO SHO TAKAMATSU




SPLSSH

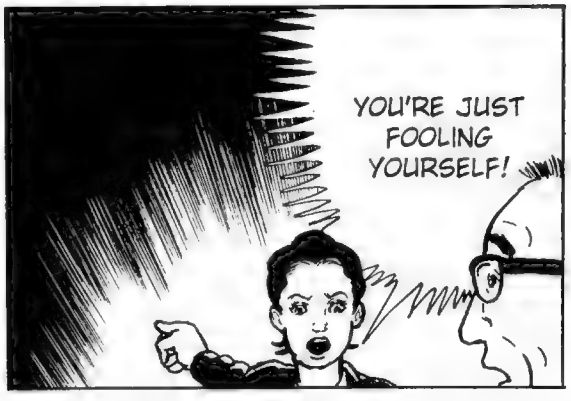

PWOOO

MAY THIS
REACH
SHO...

A LETTER? TO WHO?
A LETTER!
WHAT DID YOU JUST TOSS INTO THE SEA?
HE TOLD ME IT TURNED INTO A DESERT.
THE ONE IN TOKYO!
DESERT? WHAT DESERT?
HE'S IN THE DESERT, STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE.
MY SON!
TELL ME WHERE THIS "DESERT" IS. DO YOU MEAN THE TOTTORI SAND DUNES OR THE BEACH BY HAMAMATSU?
HA HA HA!
TOKYO? A DESERT?
IT'S ALREADY A DESERT!
LOOK!
I'M NOT JOKING!

IT'S ALL NOTHING BUT CONCRETE AND ASPHALT!
TELL ME WHERE THE RIVERS, TREES AND MOUNTAINS ARE!

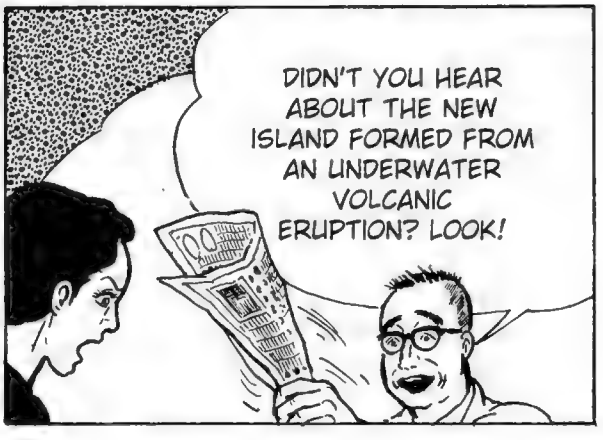
IT'LL TURN INTO A DESERT!
ONCE THE HUMANS ARE GONE THERE WON'T BE ANY WATER! NO WATER, NO TREES!

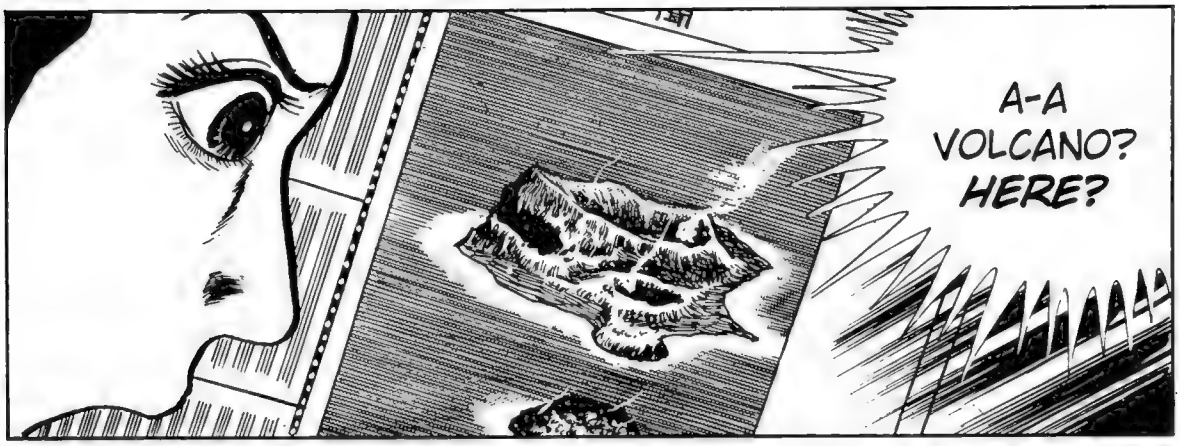

YOU'RE JUST FOOLING YOURSELF!

IT'LL JUST BUST APART.
ANYWAY, IT'S NO USE SENDING A MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE IN *THIS* PART OF THE OCEAN.

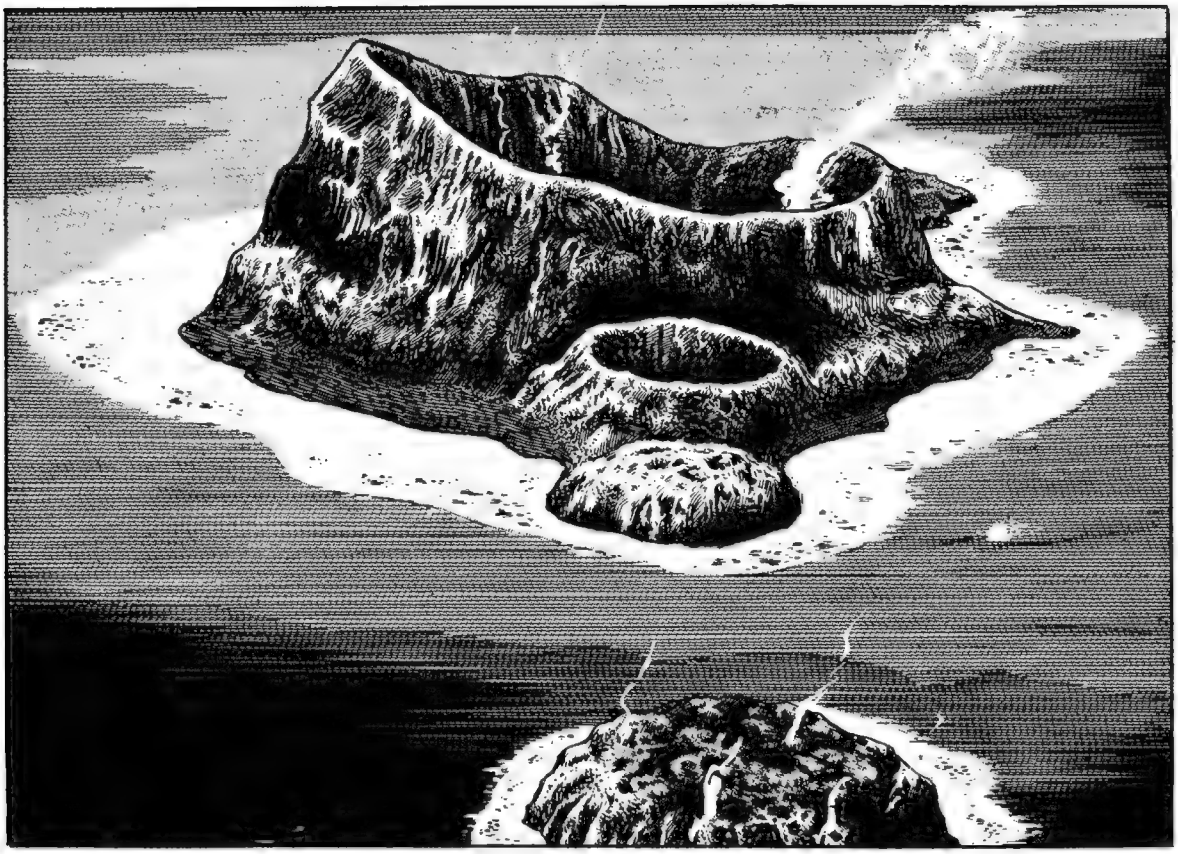
HA! THE GOVERNMENT'S GOT PLANS TO EXTRACT GROUNDWATER.

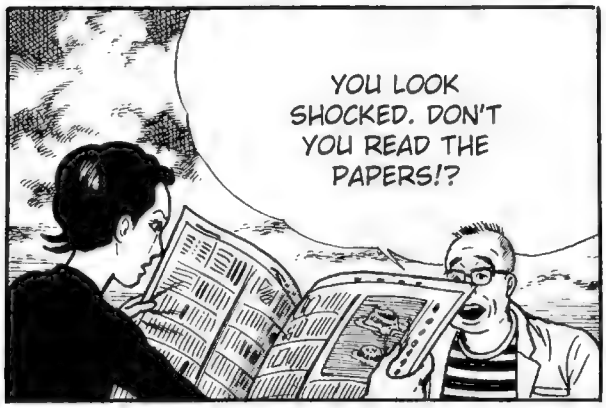
AH!

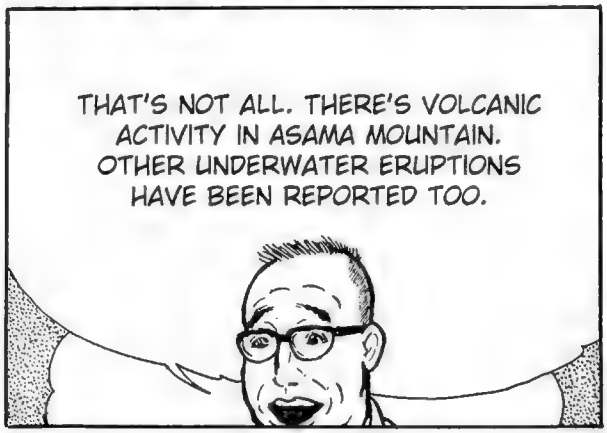

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ABOUT THE NEW ISLAND FORMED FROM AN UNDERWATER VOLCANIC ERUPTION? LOOK!


A-A
VOLCANO?
HERE?

New Volcano Forms Near Nishino Island

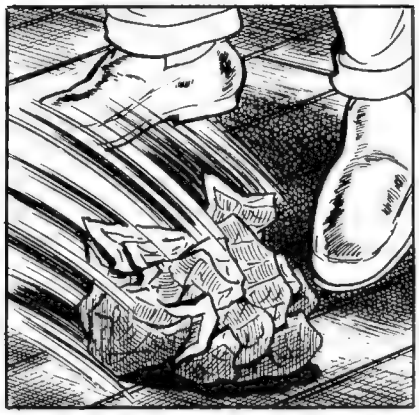



YOU LOOK SHOCKED. DON'T YOU READ THE PAPERS!?

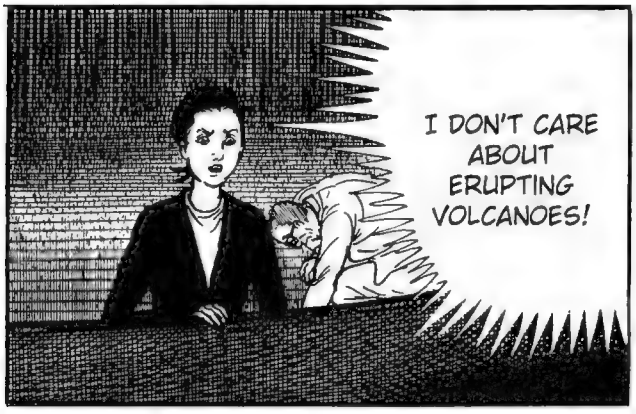

THAT'S NOT ALL. THERE'S VOLCANIC ACTIVITY IN ASAMA MOUNTAIN. OTHER UNDERWATER ERUPTIONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED TOO.

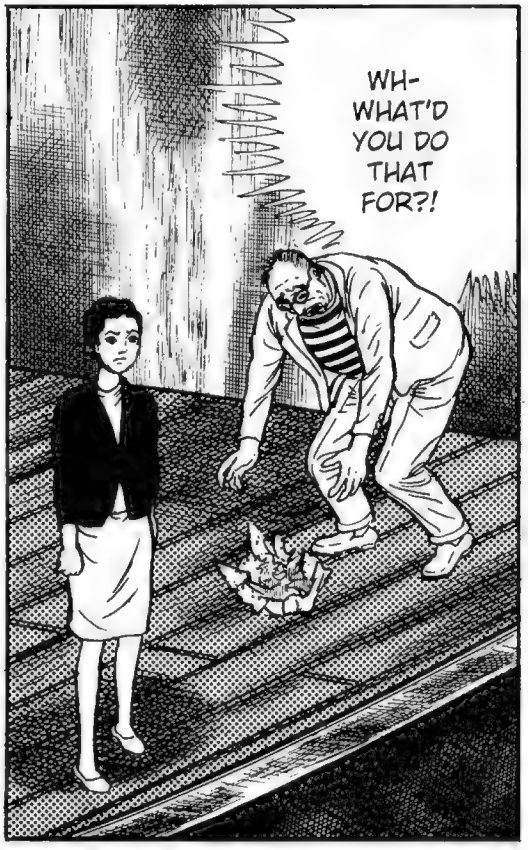
HMPH!

IF IT'S TRUE THAT MAJOR EARTHQUAKES COME IN A CYCLE OF 69 YEARS, THEN THE NEXT BIG ONE IS COMING SOON.

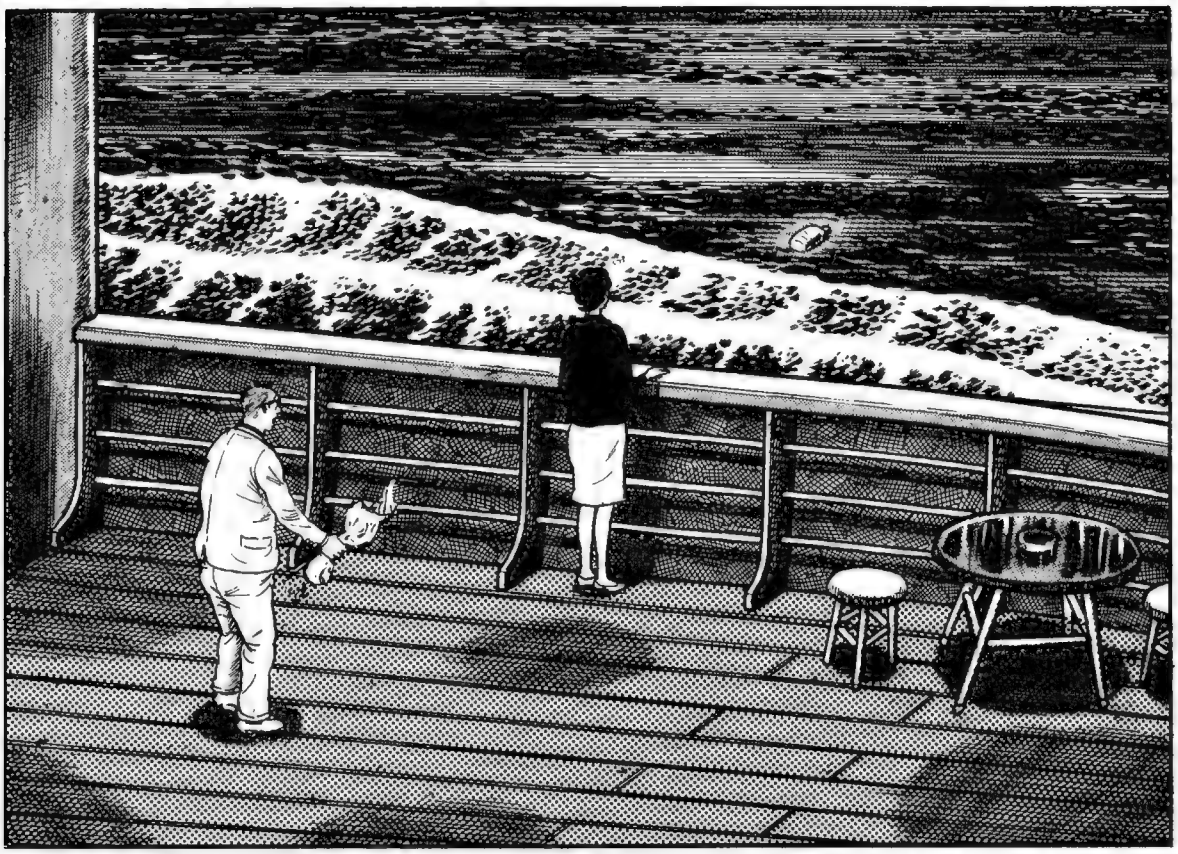


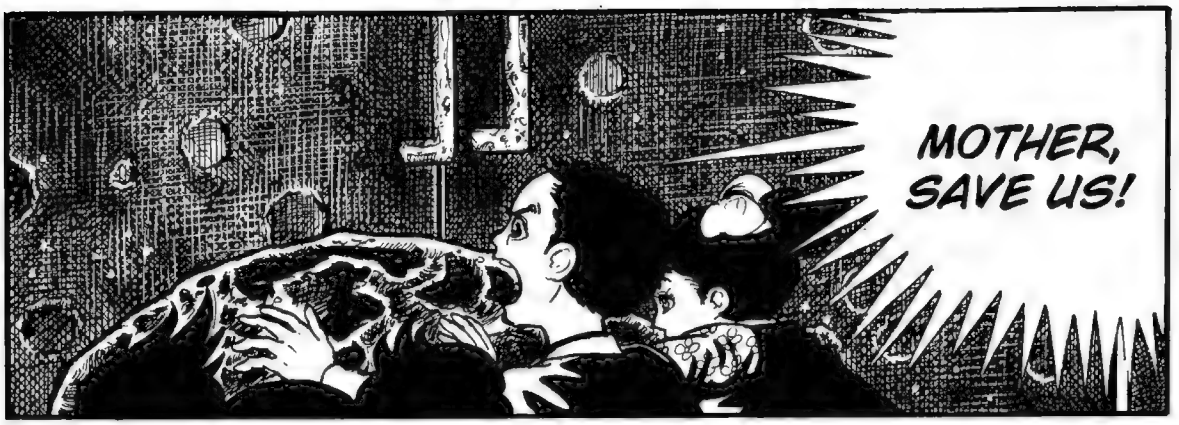
KRUMP
KRUMP
HEY!


I DON'T CARE ABOUT ERUPTING VOLCANOES!


WH-WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR?!

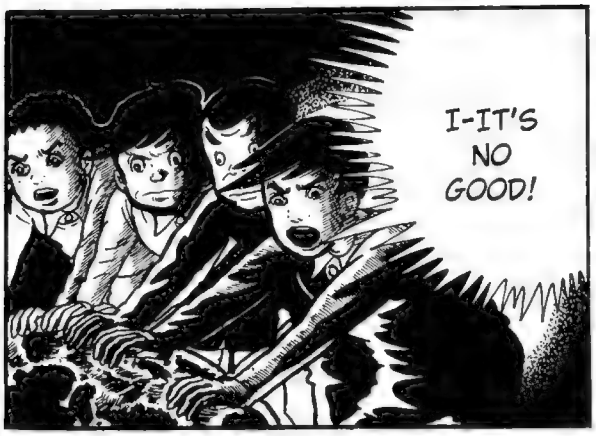
SHO ...!

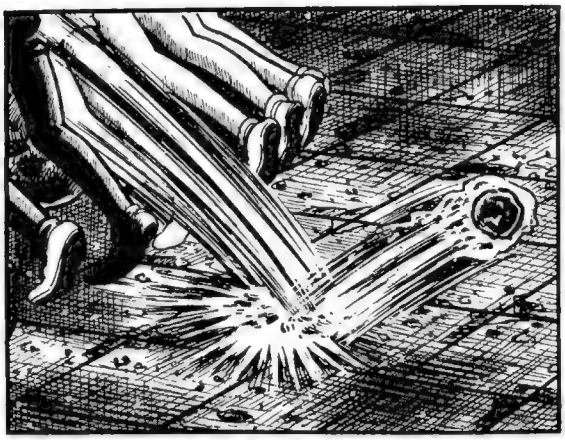


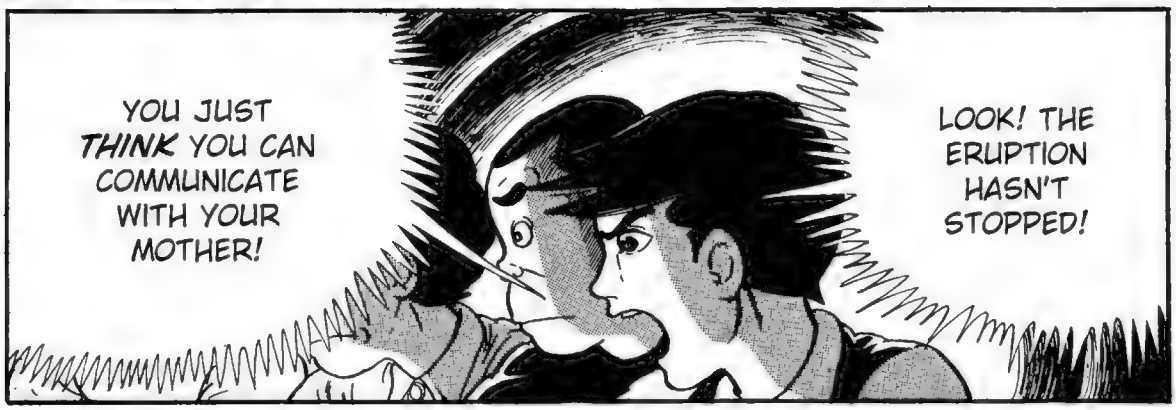

MOTHER, SAVE US!

DON'T LET THEM BUILD THE PIPE!

AAGGH!
SKRASH


I-IT'S NO GOOD!

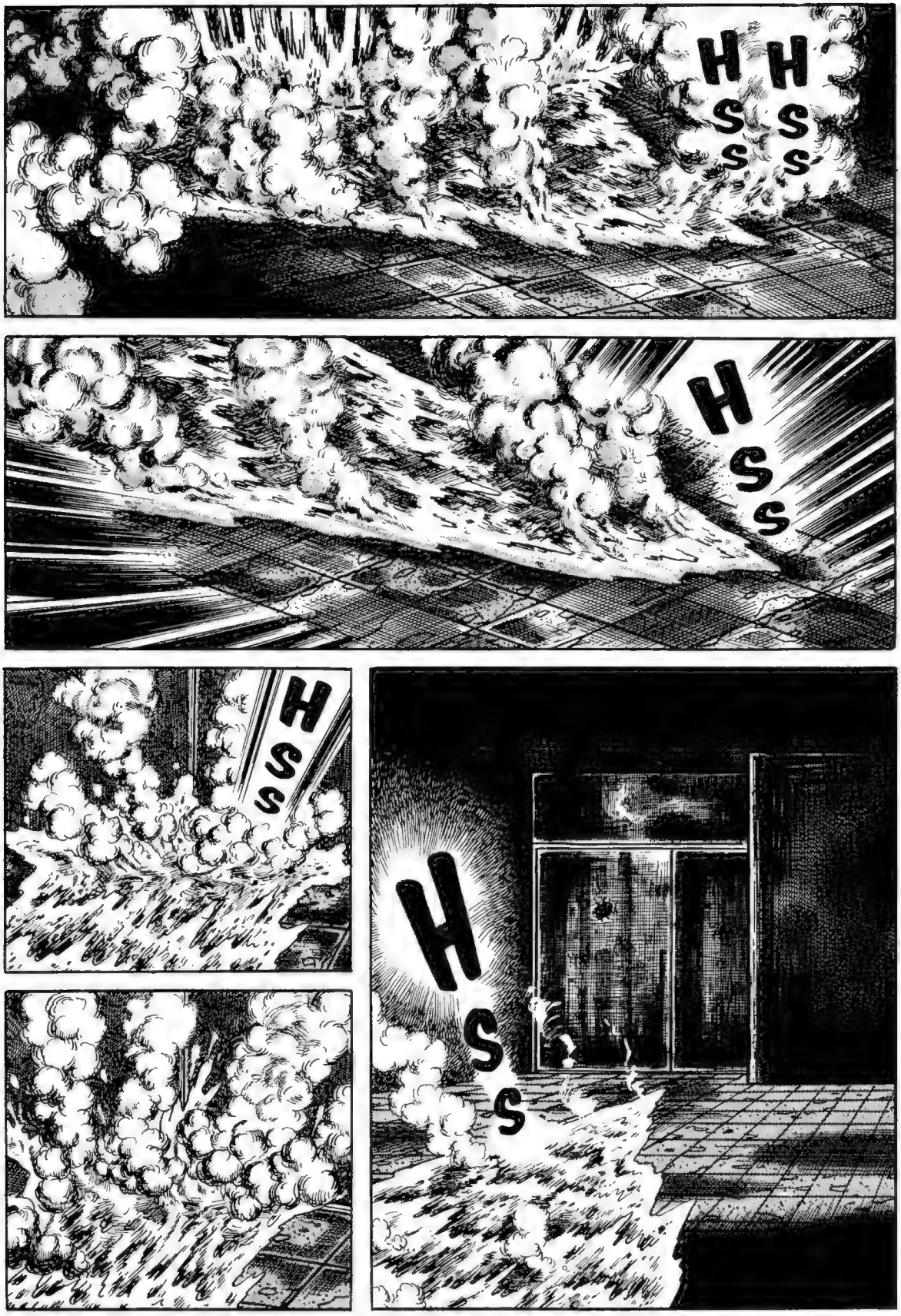



YOU JUST *THINK* YOU CAN COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR MOTHER!
LOOK! THE ERUPTION HASN'T STOPPED!

WHY WON'T IT NOW?!

NO! LAST TIME IT WORKED! I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

SHOOM


HSS
HSS
HSS
HSS
HSS

IT'S LAVA! RUN!

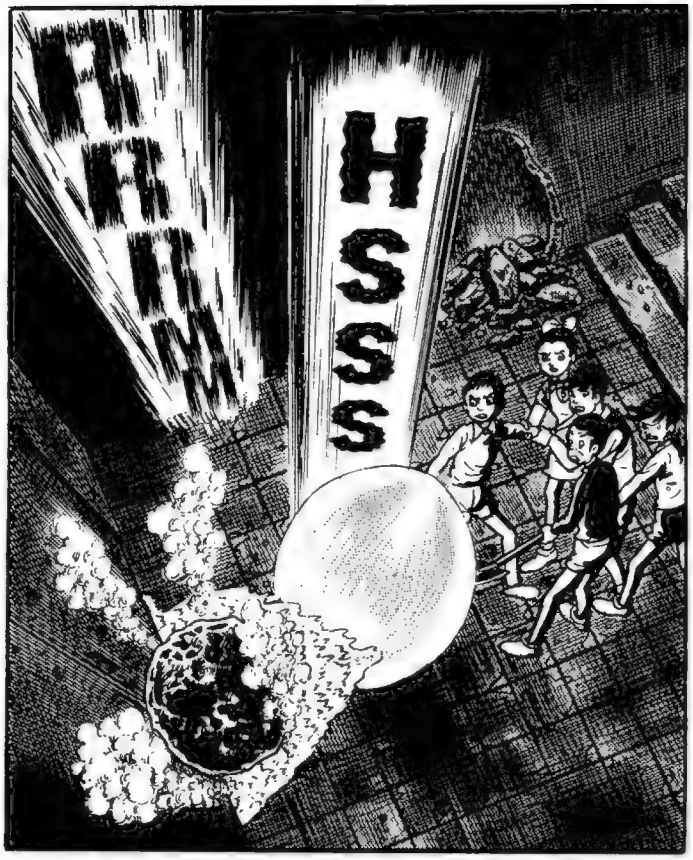
FSSHH
WAAGGH!

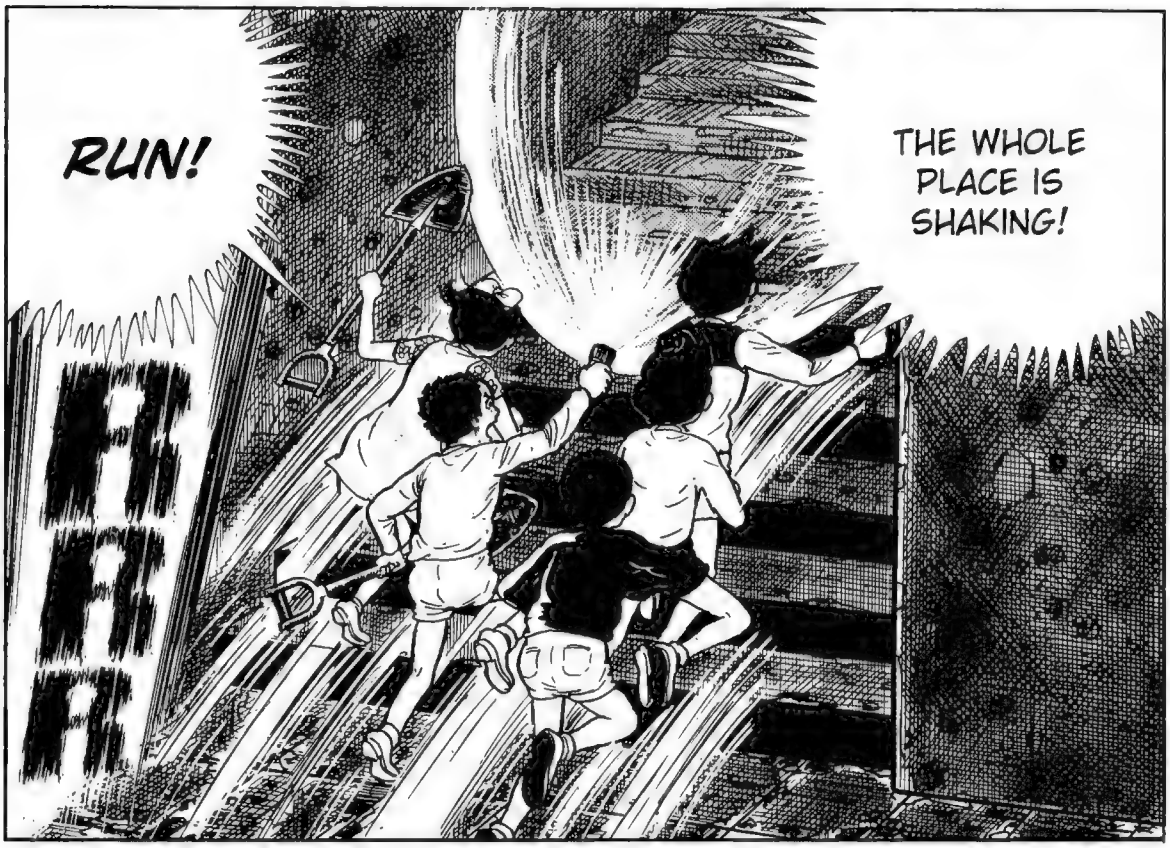
NOW I REMEMBER! THE OTHER TIMES I CALLED MY MOTHER, NISHI WAS WITH ME!

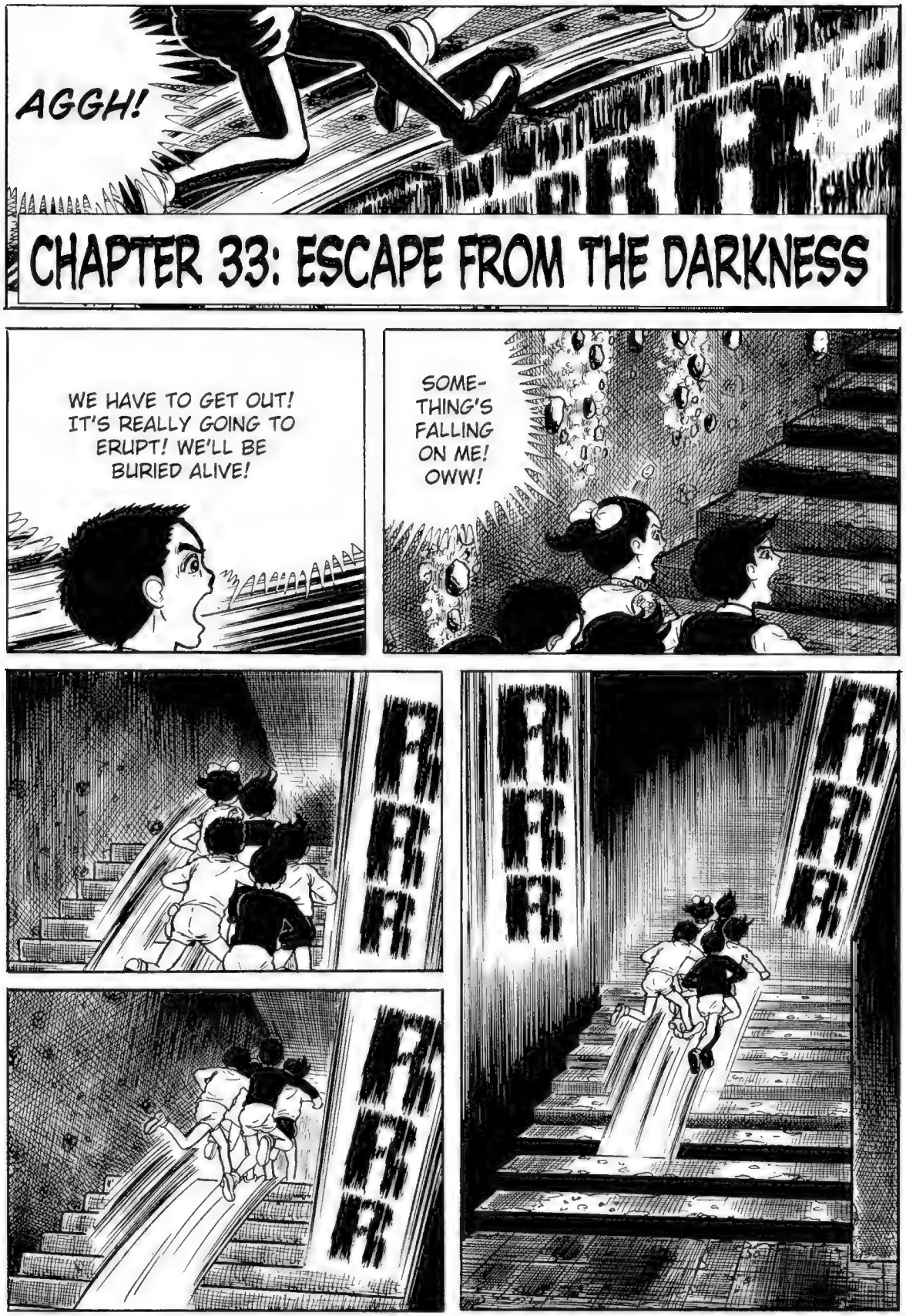
NISHI WAS THE CONNECTION TO MY MOTHER!
BOTH TIMES, NISHI WAS WITH ME, UNCONSCIOUS! SHE EVEN SAID LATER THAT SHE'D DREAMED MY MOTHER WAS SEARCHING FOR ME!

GET AWAY FROM THE DOOR! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, TAKAMATSU?

ARRGH!

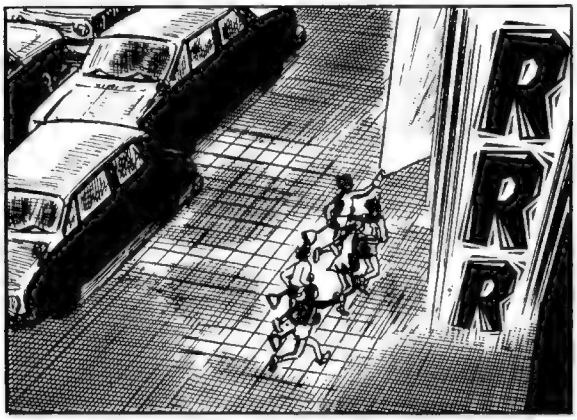

HSSS

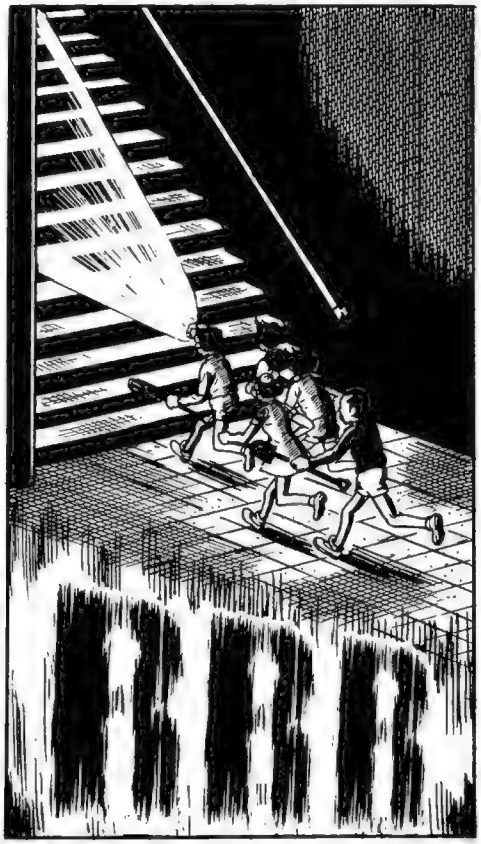

RUN!
THE WHOLE PLACE IS SHAKING!

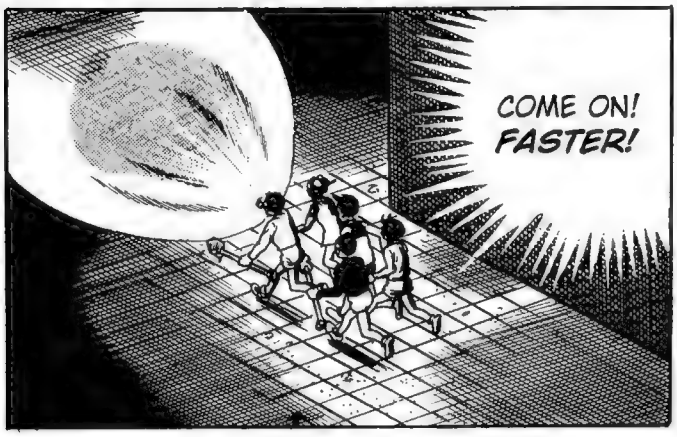

AGGH!
CHAPTER 33: ESCAPE FROM THE DARKNESS
WE HAVE TO GET OUT! IT'S REALLY GOING TO ERUPT! WE'LL BE BURIED ALIVE!
SOME-THING'S FALLING ON ME! OWW!

RRR
AIEE!

KRASH


RRR



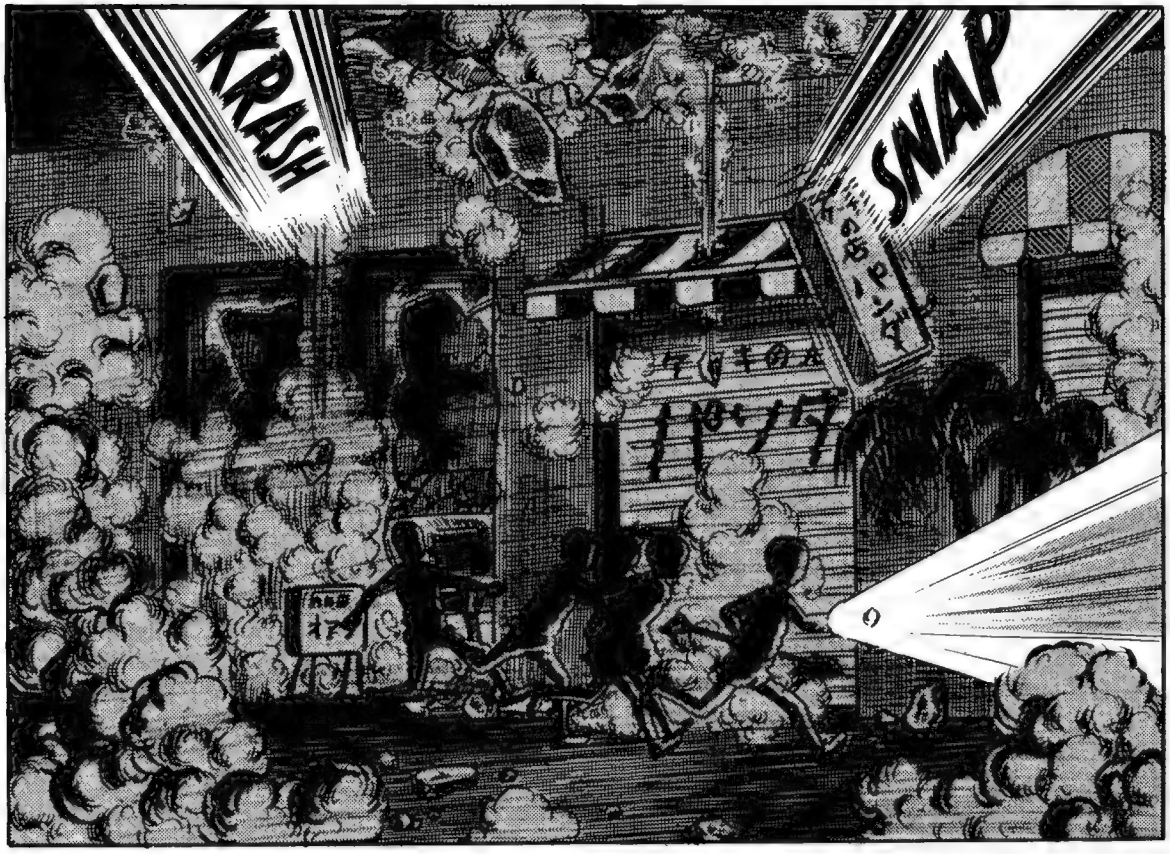

COME ON!
FASTER!

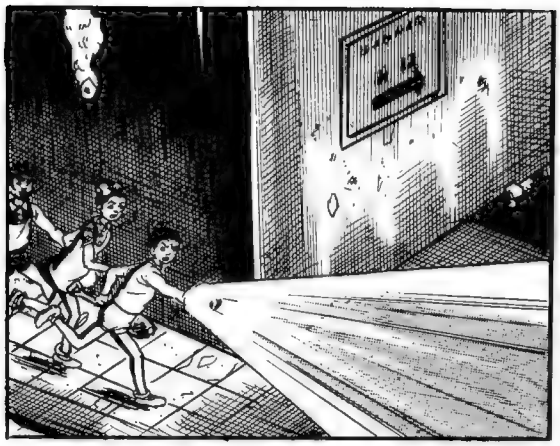
KRK
KRK
KRK
KRK
KRK
AAGGH!

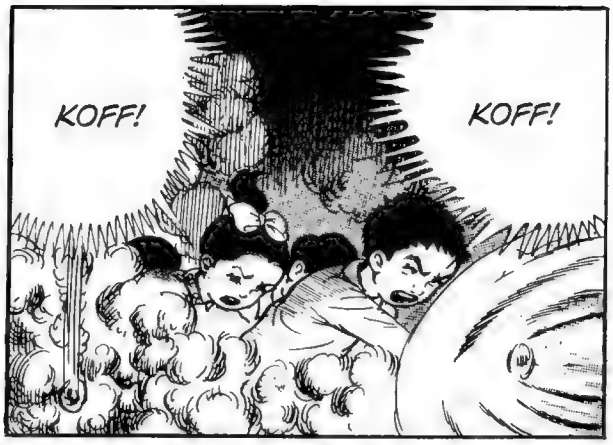
R
R
R
R

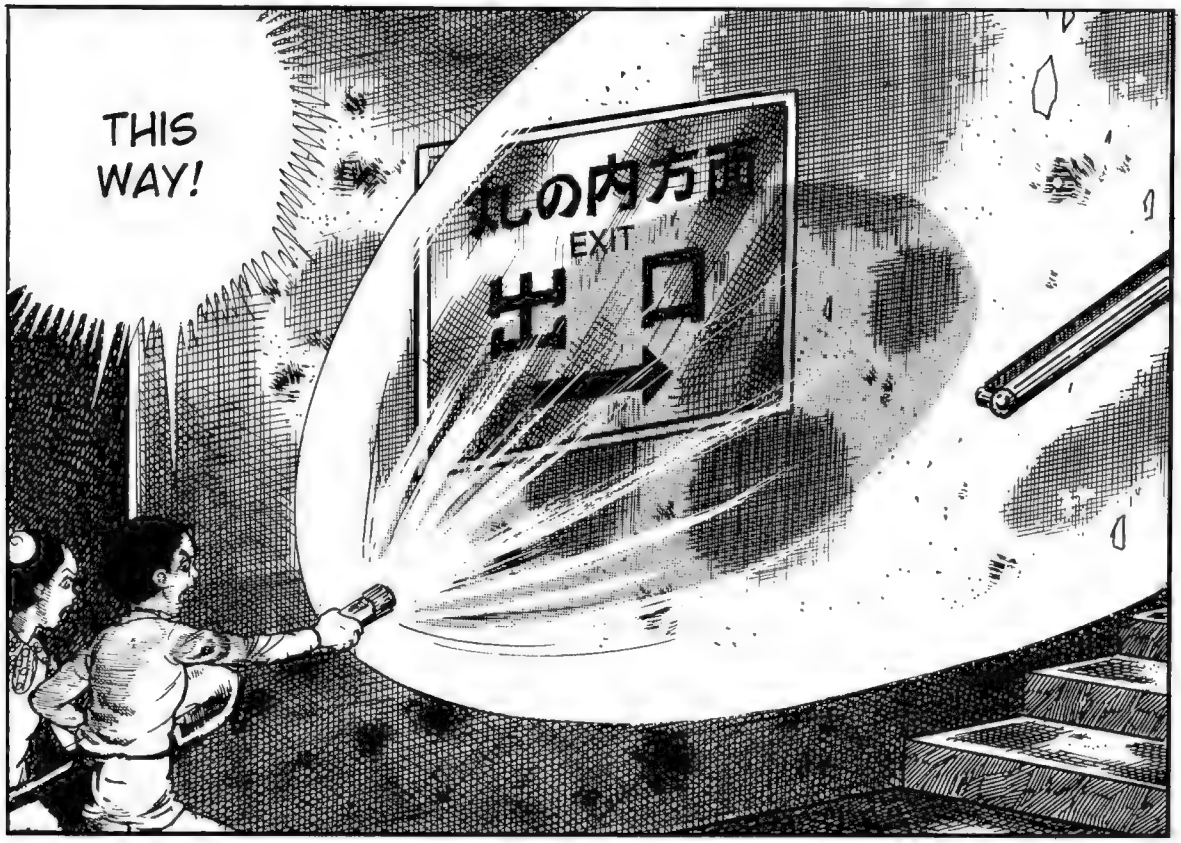
BOOM

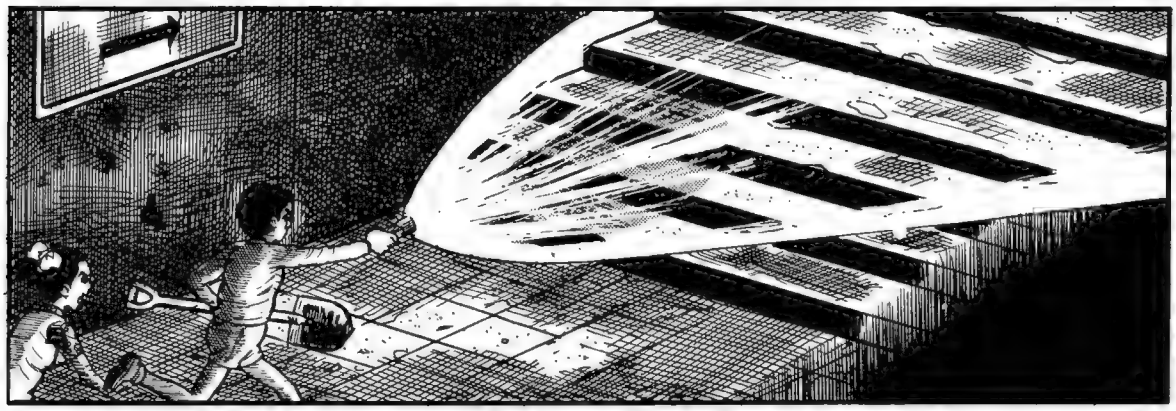
GYAAAH!


KRASH
SNAP



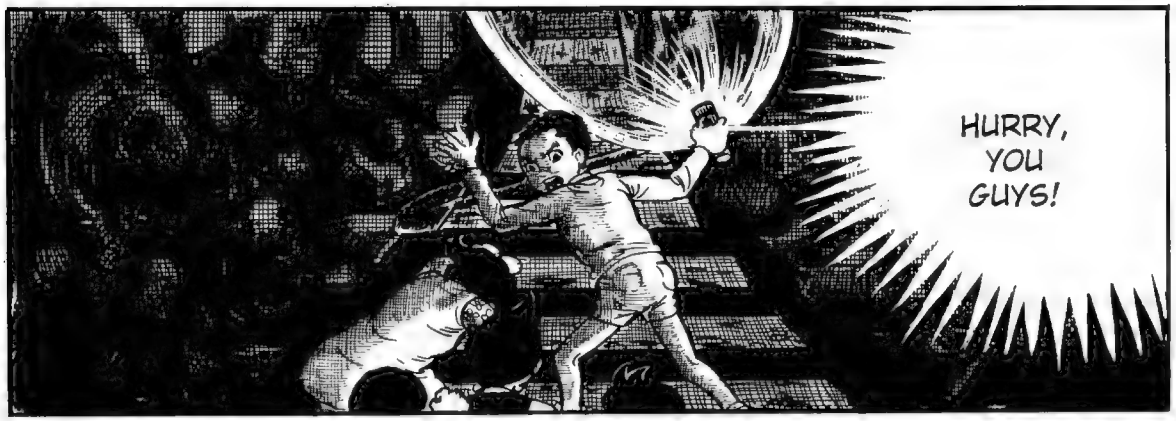

KOFF!
KOFF!

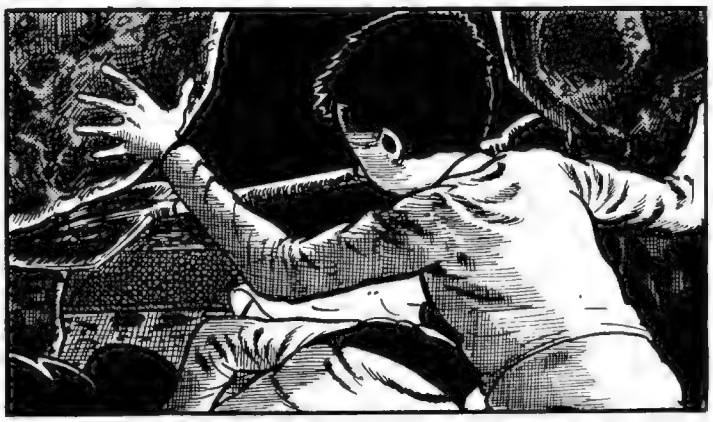

THIS WAY!
丸の内方面
EXIT
出口



KRAKK
AH!

THE WALLS ARE CAVING IN!

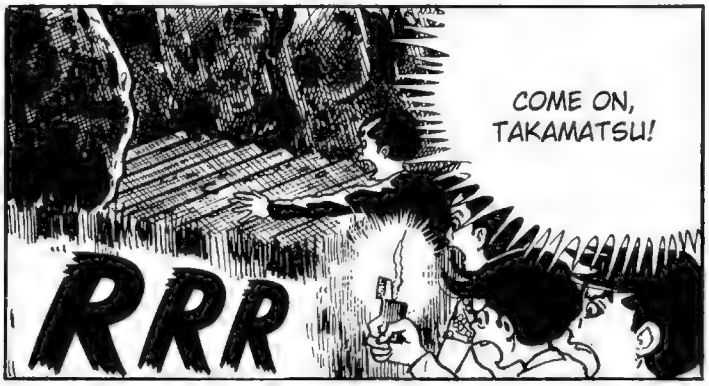

HURRY, YOU GUYS!



KRAK

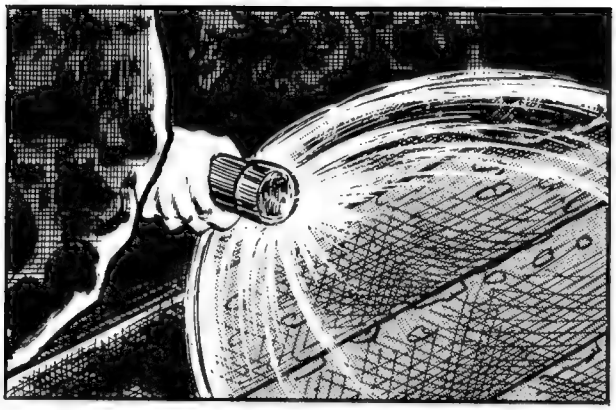
NNGGH ...!

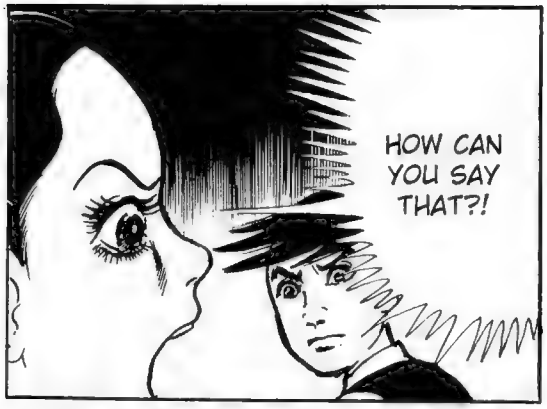
KRAK
OH NO!


COME ON, TAKAMATSU!
RRR

WHAT?!
WE HAVE TO LEAVE HIM BEHIND!

WE'LL BE CRUSHED IF WE STAY HERE!

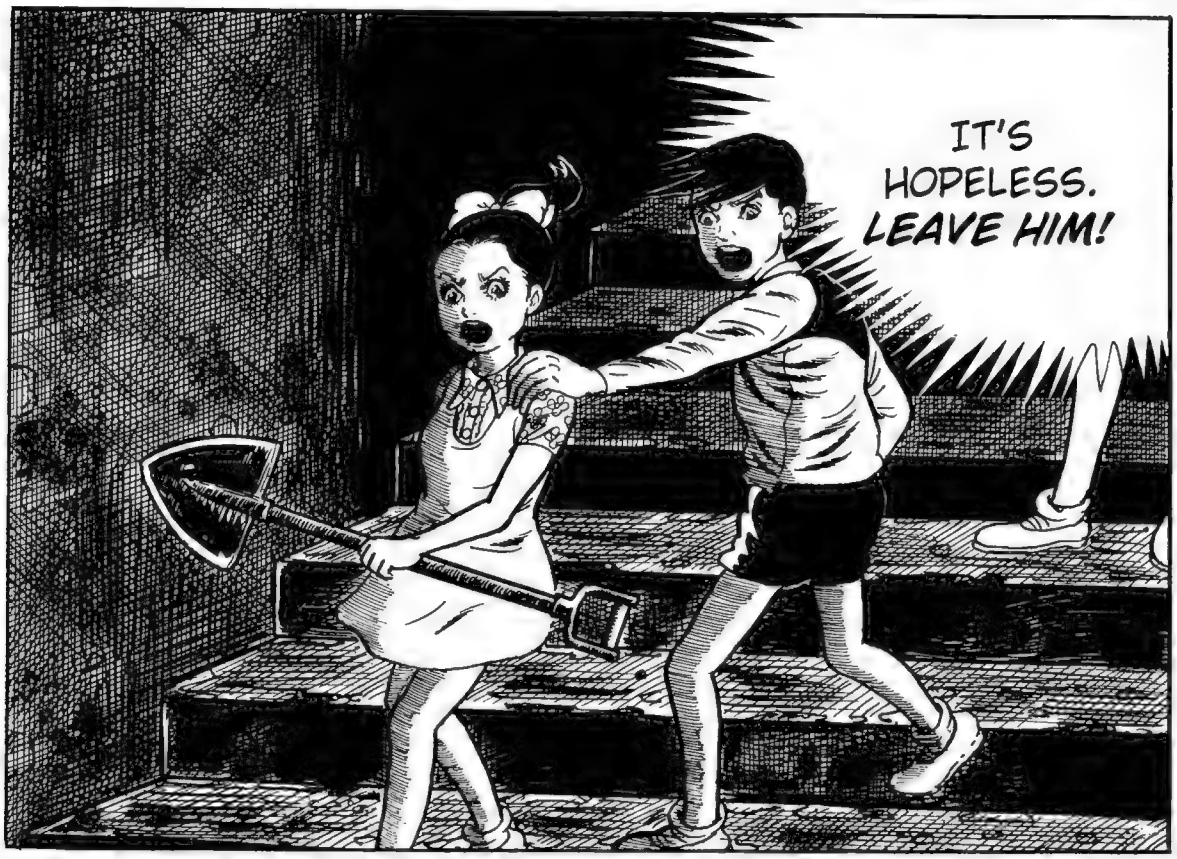


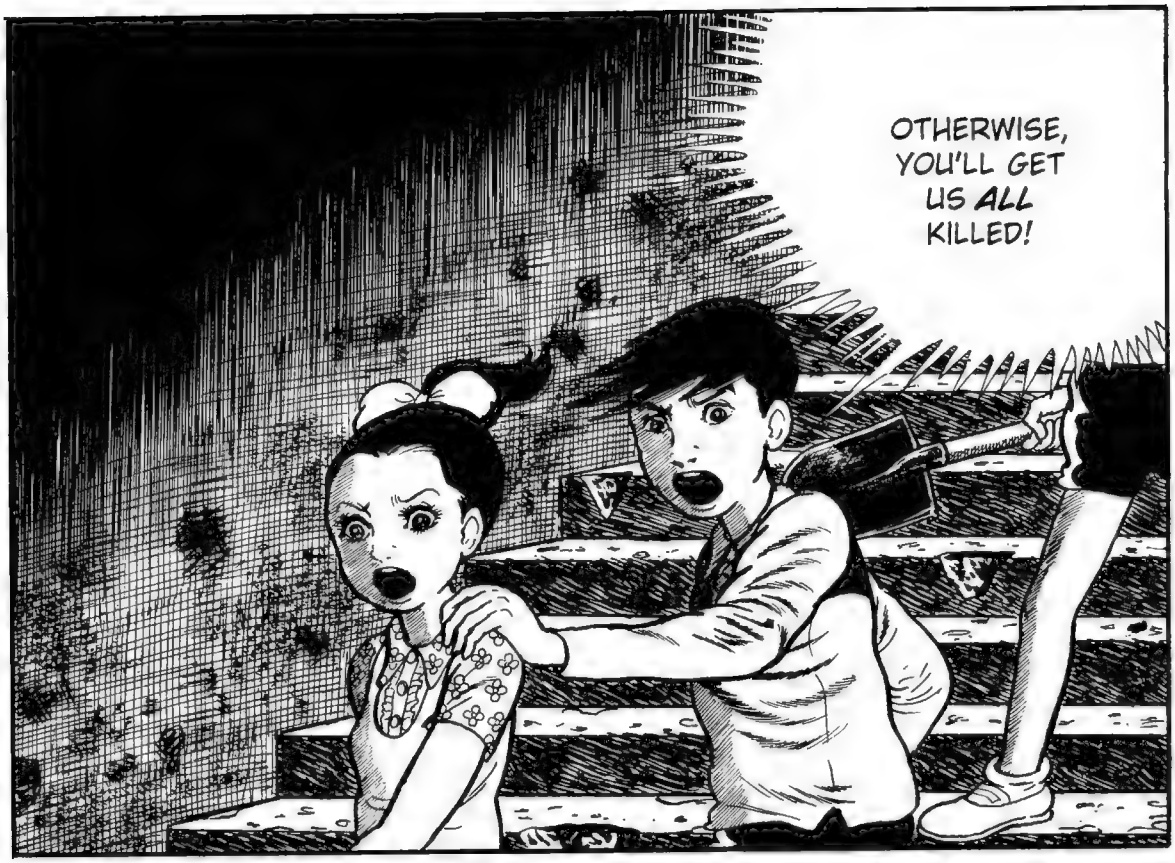

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!

WH-WHY?! WE CAN SAVE HIM IF WE ALL TUG ON HIM!

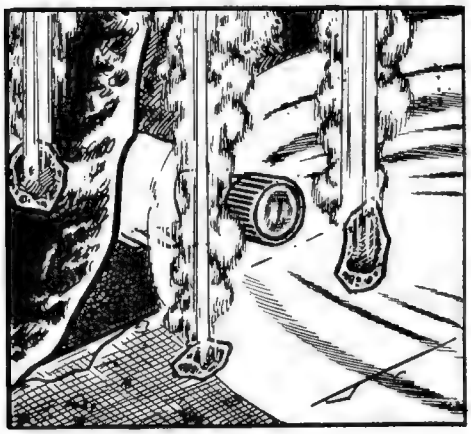
FORGET IT, SAKIKO!

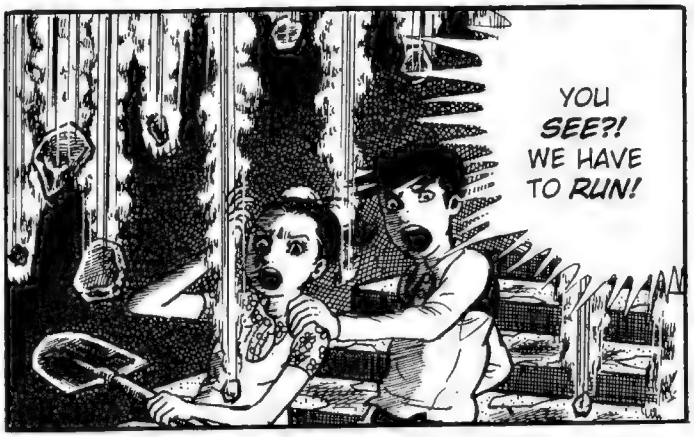
LOOK! HIS *HAND!*


IT'S HOPELESS. *LEAVE HIM!*


OTHERWISE, YOU'LL GET US ALL KILLED!

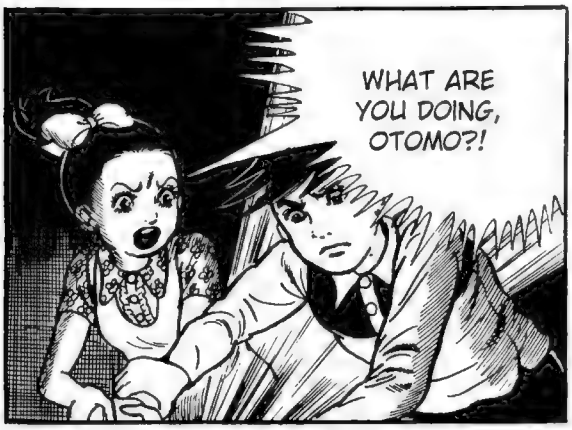
FFFMM

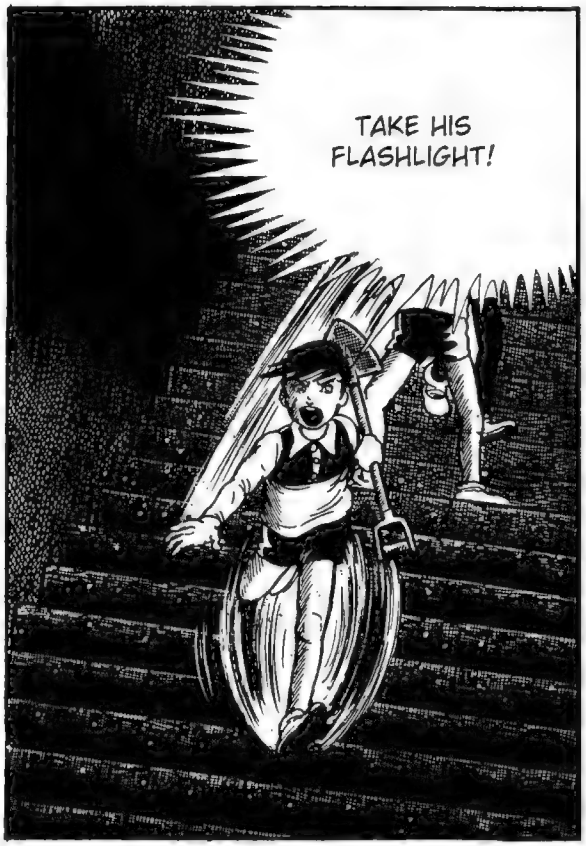


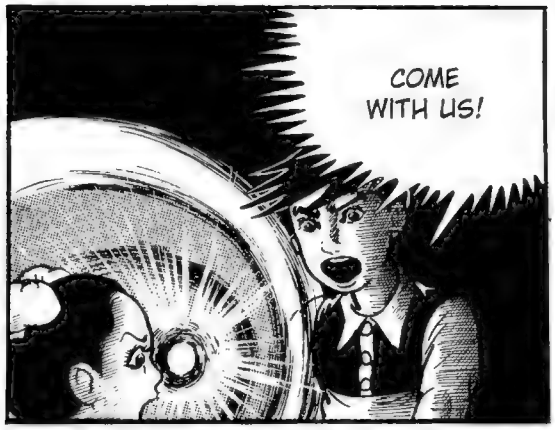

YOU SEE?! WE HAVE TO RUN!

I'LL HELP YOU!

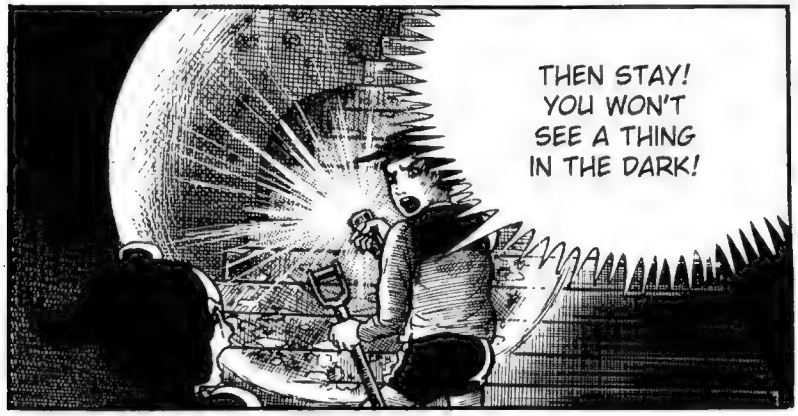
SHO!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING, OTOMO?!


TAKE HIS FLASHLIGHT!


COME WITH US!

HEY!


THEN STAY! YOU WON'T SEE A THING IN THE DARK!

NO!

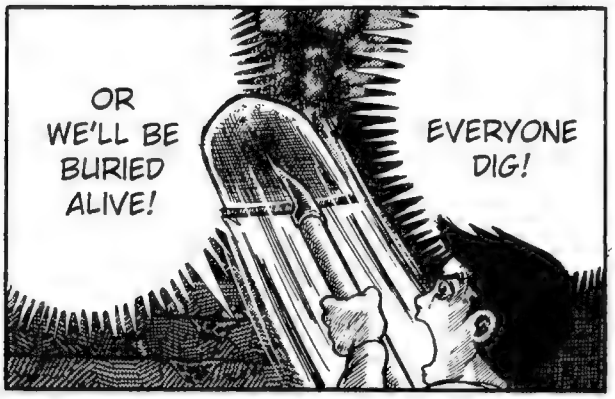
UP THE STAIRS!

SHO! SHO!

AGGH!

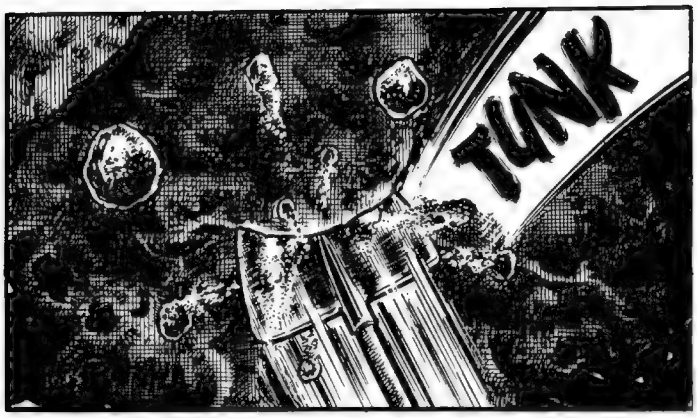
OH SHIT!

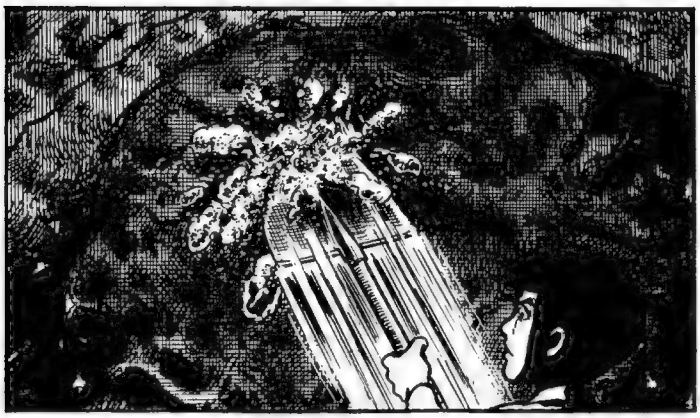
RRMMM


OR WE'LL BE BURIED ALIVE!
EVERYONE DIG!

TUNK

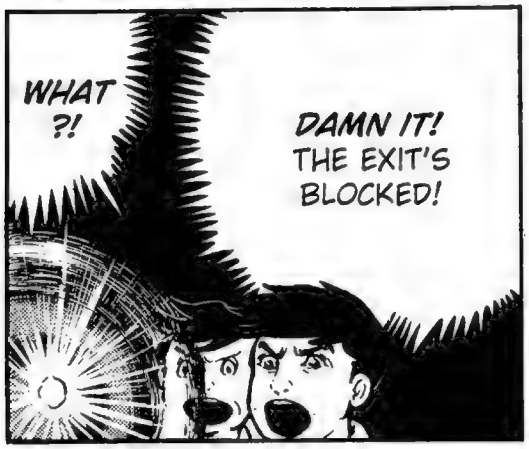
THE EXIT'S BLOCKED!

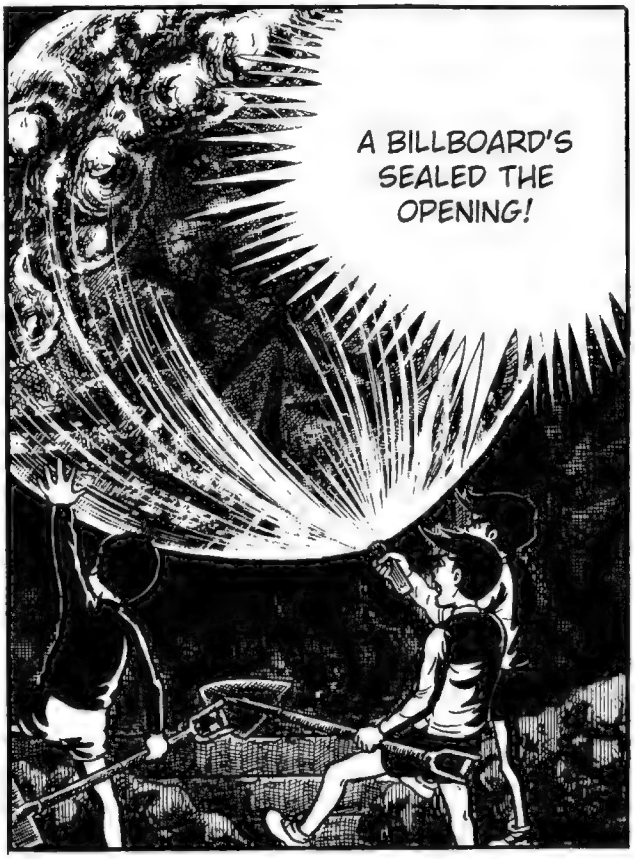

TUNK



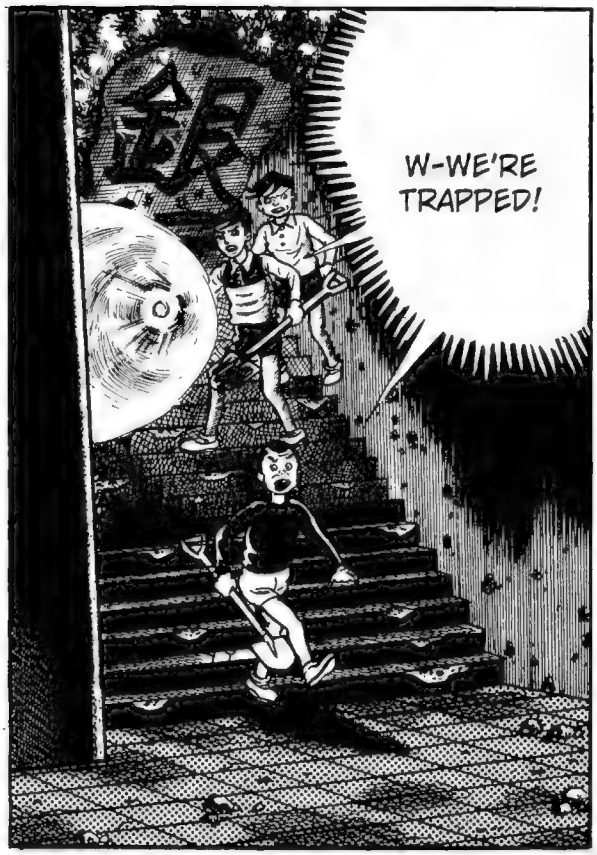
SHF
SHF

BANG
BANG


WHAT ?!
DAMN IT! THE EXIT'S BLOCKED!


A BILLBOARD'S SEALED THE OPENING!

THAT'S WHAT WE GET FOR LEAVING TAKAMATSU!

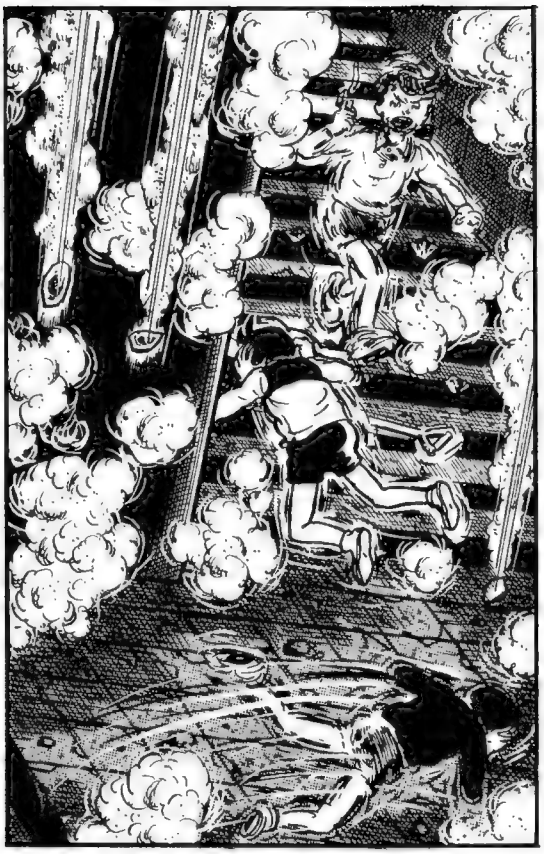

W-WE'RE TRAPPED!

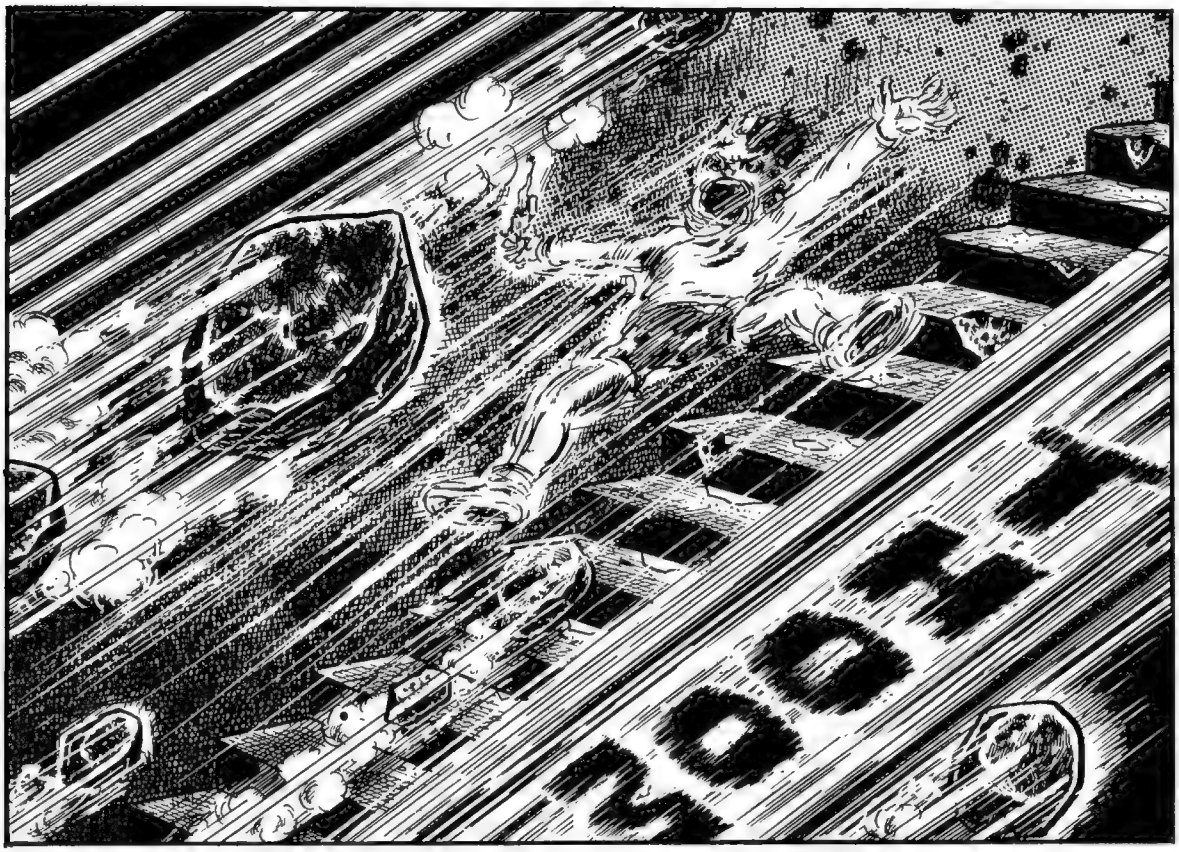
KABOOM

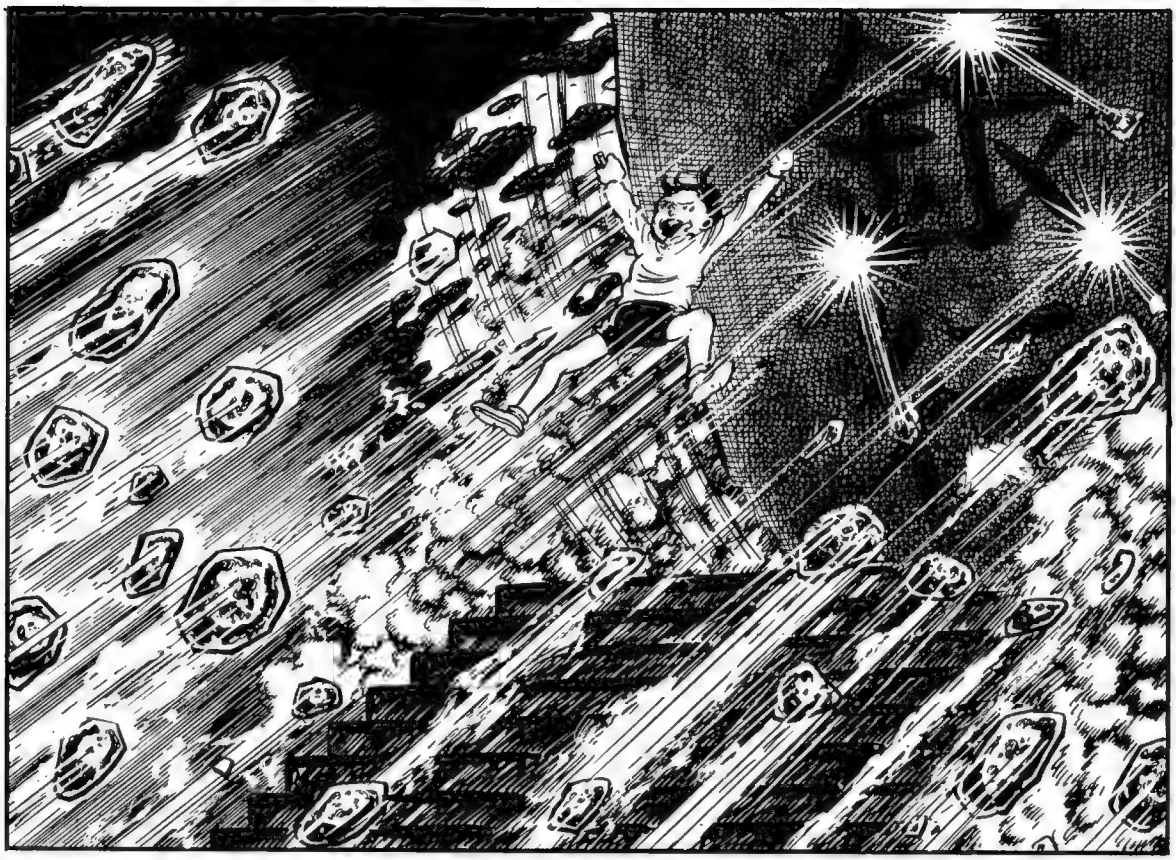
YAAHH!

THE WALLS ARE SPLITTING!
IT'S REALLY ERUPTING!
SHO!
WE'RE FINISHED!
SAKI! COVER YOUR EARS AND RUN FOR COVER!
EVERYONE ELSE, COVER YOUR EARS AND DUCK!
WHAT?!

WHAT'D YOU SAY?! I CAN'T HEAR YOU!



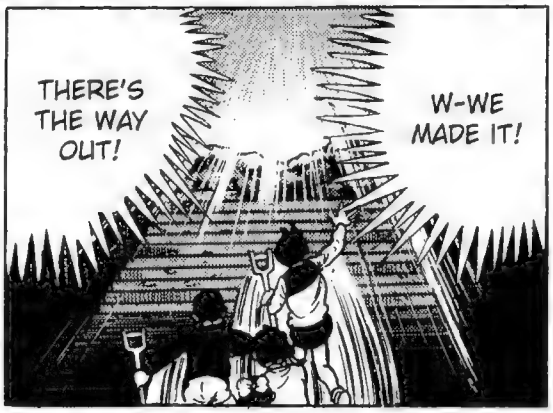




SLAM

SHO!

YAYY!


THERE'S THE WAY OUT!
W-WE MADE IT!

HIS EARS ARE BLEEDING ...

ISHIDA!

I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN WHEN THE VOLCANO ERUPTED.

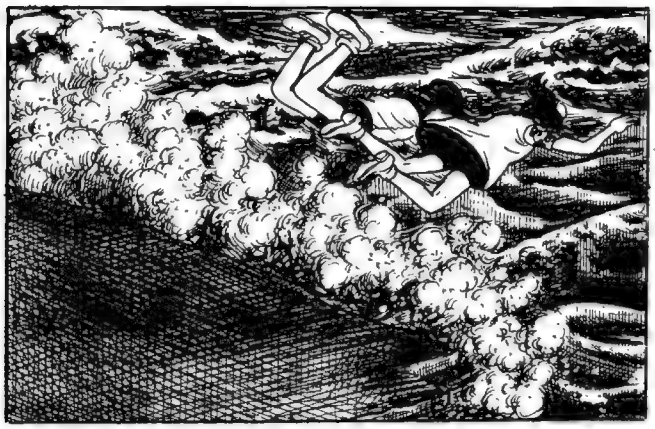
HIS EARDRUMS ARE BLOWN OUT!

THE SOUND ECHOED IN THE NARROW TUNNEL... I REMEMBERED MY EARS HURTING IN A TUNNEL THE FIRST TIME I RODE A BULLET TRAIN.

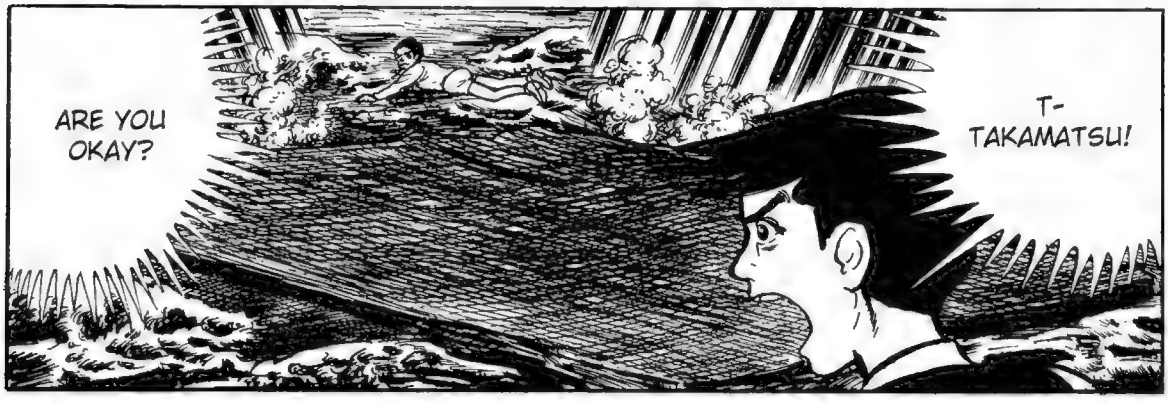
AAGGH!

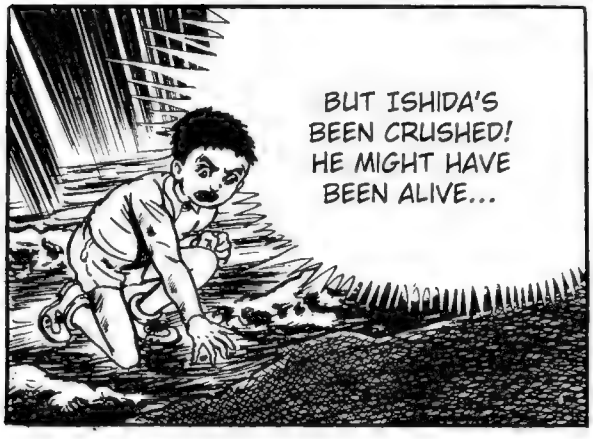
KYAAAH!

WATCH OUT! THE STEEL WALL'S FALLING!



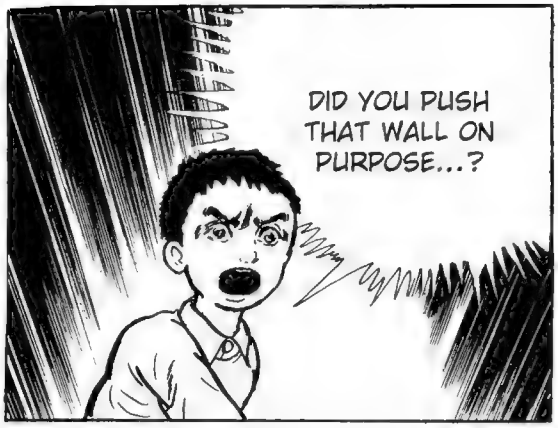
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

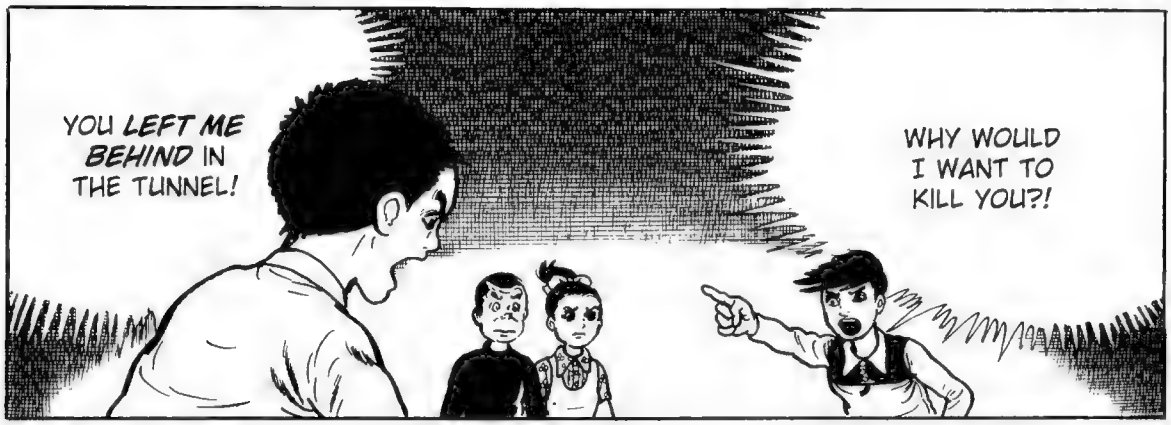

ARE YOU OKAY?
T-TAKAMATSU!


BUT ISHIDA'S BEEN CRUSHED! HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ALIVE...

I'M OKAY...

HOW DARE YOU?!
WH-WHAT?!


DID YOU PUSH THAT WALL ON PURPOSE...?


YOU LEFT ME BEHIND IN THE TUNNEL!
WHY WOULD I WANT TO KILL YOU?!

YEAH? HOW?

THAT WAS DIFFERENT!

NO! YOU LEFT ME THERE ON PURPOSE!

I HAD TO GET US OUT OF THERE!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD MAKE IT!

SHOW ME SOME *PROOF*, HUH?
NOW WHO'S ACCUSING WHO?! SO YOU THINK I LEFT YOU?

BAM

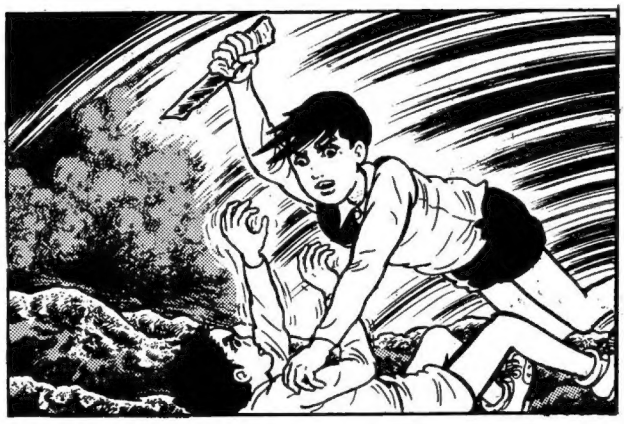
I WANT *PROOF!*

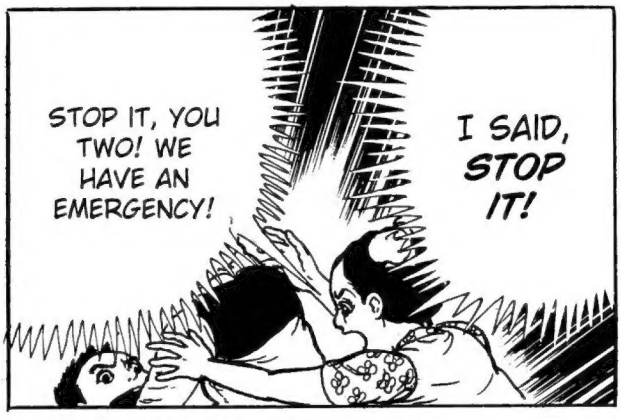
WHOK

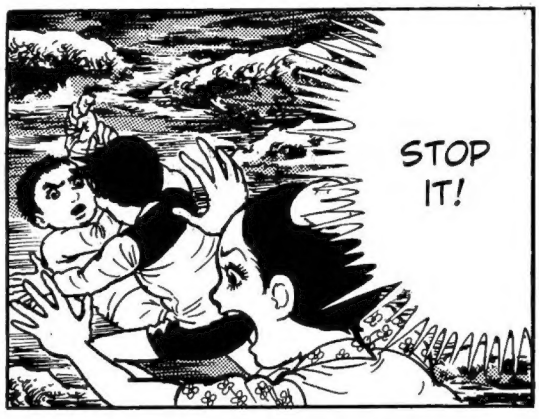
THAT'S IT!

NOOO!

GASP!
THOK




STOP IT, YOU TWO! WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY!
I SAID, STOP IT!


STOP IT!

HUH?!

THERE'S SOMETHING ON YOUR BACK, OTOMO!

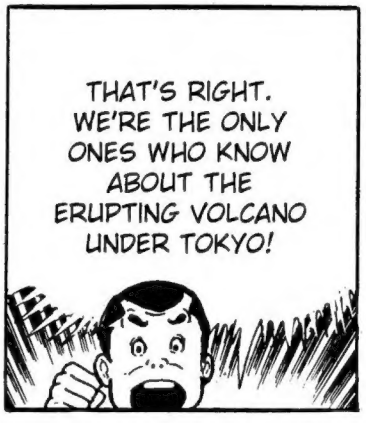
HOW DID THIS GET HERE...?
IT'S LIKE A THREAD OF SPIDER-WEB!

LET'S GET BACK TO SCHOOL! WE HAVE TO WARN EVERYONE!

THE VOLCANO IS STILL ERUPTING!

THEY'RE COMING AFTER US!
THE MONSTERS DID THIS!

HURRY!

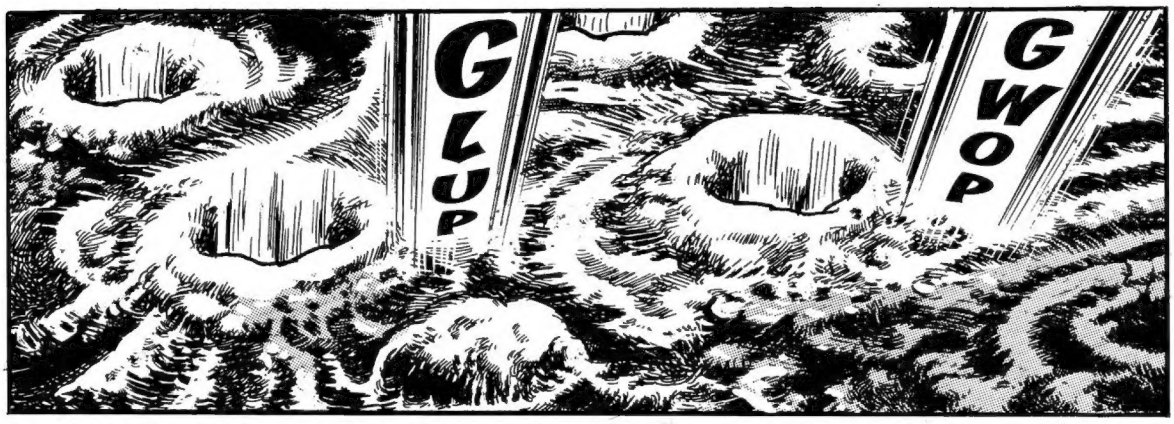

THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW ABOUT THE ERUPTING VOLCANO UNDER TOKYO!

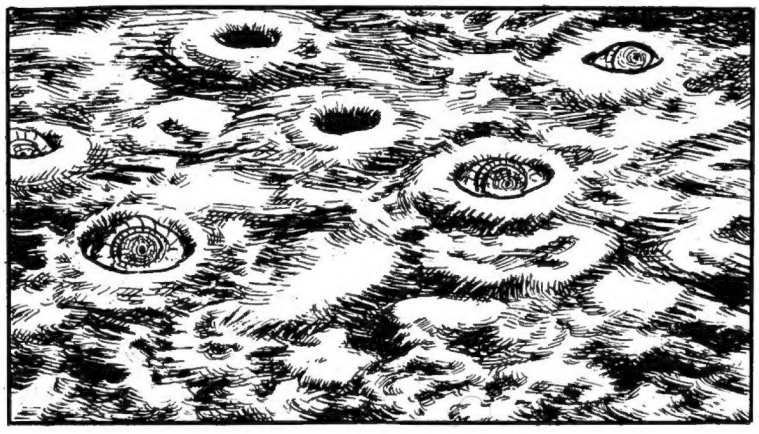
COME ON, WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

HUFF ...! HUFF ...!
I-I CAN'T MAKE IT!

LOOK! THOSE WEIRD FOOT-PRINTS!

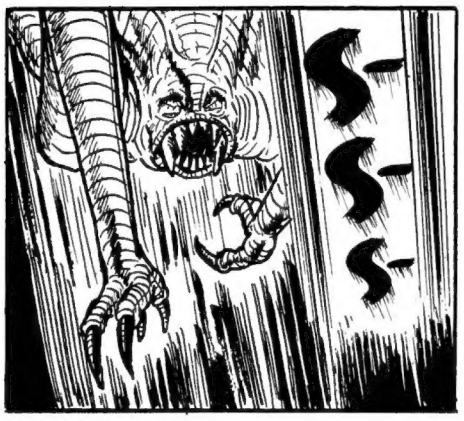
SOMETHING'S FOLLOWING US!

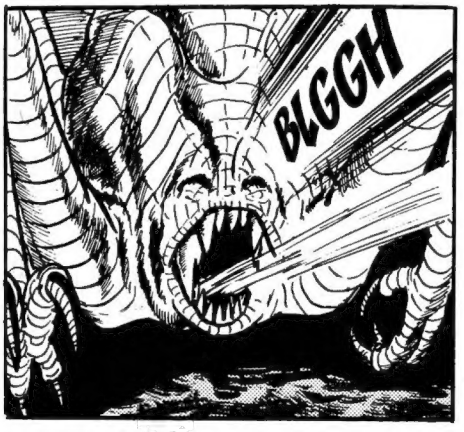

GLUP
GWOP



SHOOM

THEY WEREN'T FOOTPRINTS! THEY WERE EYEHOLES FOR THE MUTANTS!





TO BE CONTINUED...